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ood-by, My Sweet Crane and hree Short Stories by ine Arinaga
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Good-by,
My Sweet Crane
and
Three Short Stories by
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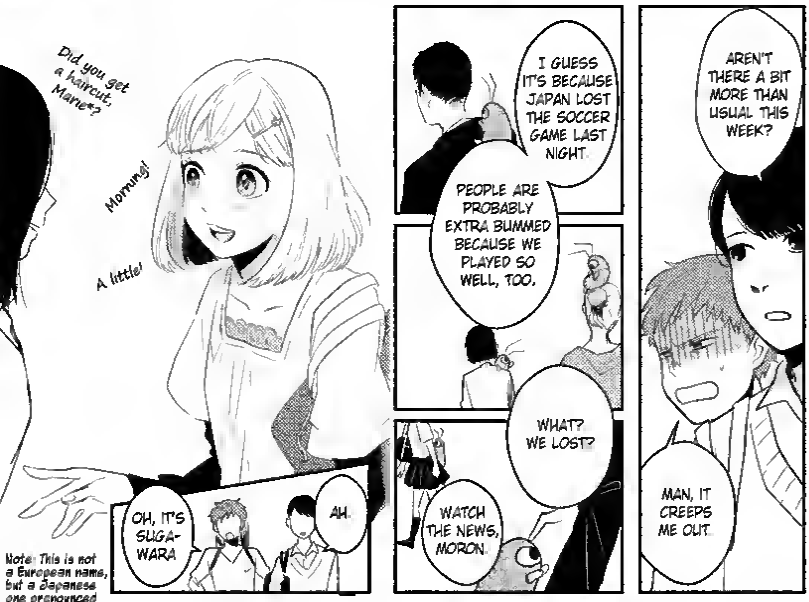
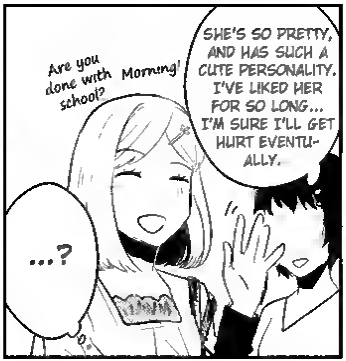
WHAT'S UP?
HEY
THERE ARE MANY THINGS THAT CAN'T BE UNDERSTOOD, NO MATTER HOW YOU THINK ON THEM
IT HURTS, IT HURTS.
IT HURTS.
IT HURTS, IT HURTS, IT HURTS!
IT HURTS, IT HURTS.
Collection Mr. Sweet Crime and Three Short Stories by Ine Arinoji
The One-eyes Cry on Thursday
THE WORST THINGS ARE "THINGS YOU DON'T WANT TO THINK ABOUT."
AH, I KNOW GIVE ME YOUR HAND
DOES YOUR STOMACH HURT? YOUR HEAD?
BUT WITHIN THOSE THINGS,
ZOOM
AH. HEY!
I'LL GIVE YOU THIS CHARM

SFX: SWARM
ぞろっ
MAN...
IF YOU THINK THAT, WHY DID YOU INTERFERE IN THE FIRST PLACE?
YOU DON'T GET IT, DO YOU HARUKA?
Huh?
IT'S BECAUSE OF THAT THAT I INTERFERED, RIGHT?
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND PEOPLE AT ALL, JUN
WHAT AN INCREDIBLE DEPARTURE A LITTLE OVER-BLOWN
YEAH. MAKES ME THINK WE DID SOMETHING WRONG
Jeez
Wonder why

Good-by, My Sweet Crane
and Three Short Stories by Ine Arinaga

The One-eyes Cry on Thursday

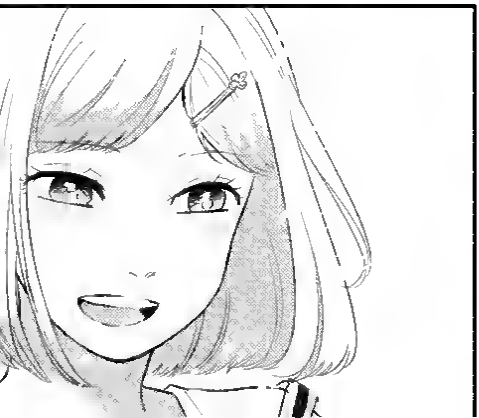

Did you get a haircut, Marie?
Morning!
A little!
OH, IT'S SUGAWARA
AH.
Note: This is not a European name, but a Japanese one pronounced ma-ri-eh
I GUESS IT'S BECAUSE JAPAN LOST THE SOCCER GAME LAST NIGHT.
PEOPLE ARE PROBABLY EXTRA BUMMED BECAUSE WE PLAYED SO WELL, TOO.
WHAT? WE LOST?
WATCH THE NEWS, MORON.
AREN'T THERE A BIT MORE THAN USUAL THIS WEEK?
MAN, IT CREEPS ME OUT.


SHE'S SO PRETTY, AND HAS SUCH A CUTE PERSONALITY. I'VE LIKED HER FOR SO LONG... I'M SURE I'LL GET HURT EVENTUALLY.
Morning!
Are you done with school?
...?

SHE ALWAYS LOOKS SO CUTE. I'M SO HAPPY WE GO TO A SCHOOL THAT DOESN'T REQUIRE A UNIFORM!
Morning!
Good morning!
SUGAWARA...

LOOK AT SUGAWARA
!
DON'T STARE THOUGH...

HARUKA.
HUH?

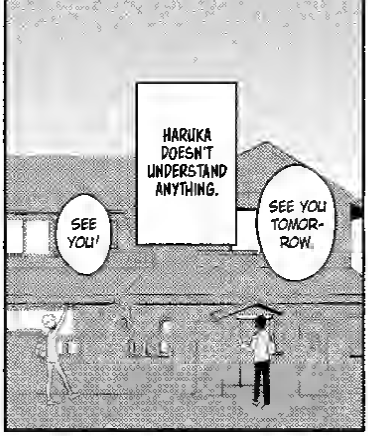


EVERY THURSDAY, THE ONE-EYES COME OUT.

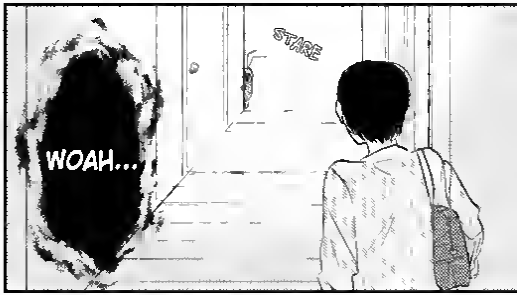
Hates bugs
Likes bugs
WHEN WE WERE SIX YEARS OLD, ALL OF A SUDDEN, THERE THEY WERE.
STARE
THEY ONLY COME OUT ON THURSDAY
THEY JUST FOLLOW PEOPLE AROUND, OR CLING ONTO THEIR BACKS.
THEY DON'T REALLY DO ANY HARM.
LOW SELF-ESTEEM.
EVEN THOUGH SHE WAS SMILING...
FIDGET
FIDGET
THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE THEM TEND TO HAVE...

THE ONE-EYE WAS SAYING... "I WANT TO DIE."
...
EVEN THOUGH WE CAN SEE THEM, THERE'S NOTHING WE REALLY CAN DO
JUN, DID YOU SEE HER?
YOU SEEMED LIKE YOU WERE ABOUT TO DO SOMETHING FOOLISH...
STRUGGLE STRUGGLE
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, DAMNIT! LEMME GO!
GEH!
SPIN
GRAB
THIS HAPPENS EVERY WEEK
I DON'T CARE!
GRAAAAAH!
IT WON'T CHANGE ANYTHING
I DON'T CARE IF I'M A WEIRDO!
EVEN IF YOU DID SAY SOMETHING, SHE'D JUST THINK YOU WERE A WEIRDO
AS IF I WOULD! I WAS JUST, UH—!
GYAAAH!
GYAAAH!

I'M HOME.

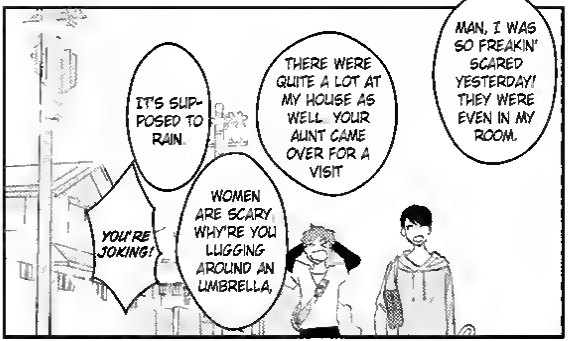

HARUKA DOESN'T UNDERSTAND ANYTHING.
SEE YOU!
SEE YOU TOMORROW.

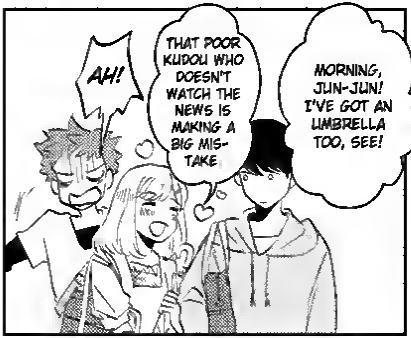
AH. WELCOME BACK HARUKA. MOM JUST HAS A FRIEND OVER, OKAY?
PARDON THE INTRUSION.

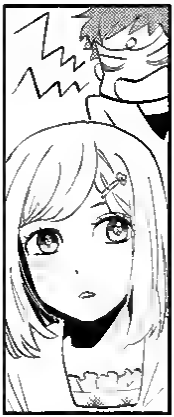

STARE
WOAH...

A WHOLE CHAIN OF WOMAN PROBLEMS.
I'M NERVOUS
Right!
I know, right!
Right! Such a useless husband.
So I told him he could just go to hell!
I'M HUNGRY
AND NERVOUS
I'M SO BROKE
DON'T NEED MY HUSBAND
CRUNCH
DA

I'M SCARED
I'M SCARED
MAIL RECEIVED 1/234
2001/5/14 17:16
HARUKA
UGH.
THERE ARE A TON OF ONE-EYES AT MY PLACE.
IT'S SO GROSS.
I'M CREEPED OUT!
FLASH
SFX. CLICK
NEW MAIL
HARUHARU_KUDO_S
<LOCATING ADDRESS>
JUST DEAL WITH IT ALREADY.
----END----
SEND
OPTIONS
FUNCTIONS

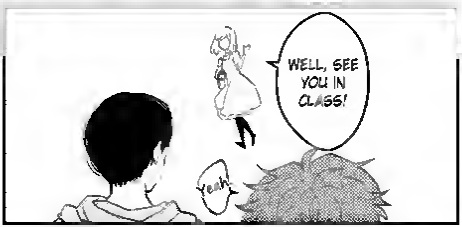

MAN, I WAS SO FREAKIN' SCARED YESTERDAY! THEY WERE EVEN IN MY ROOM.
THERE WERE QUITE A LOT AT MY HOUSE AS WELL. YOUR AUNT CAME OVER FOR A VISIT
IT'S SUPPOSED TO RAIN.
YOU'RE JOKING!
WOMEN ARE SCARY WHY'RE YOU LUGGING AROUND AN UMBRELLA,


AH!
THAT POOR KUDOU WHO DOESN'T WATCH THE NEWS IS MAKING A BIG MISTAKE
MORNING, JUN-JUN! I'VE GOT AN UMBRELLA TOO, SEE!



...
WEAAH! GYAH!!
Well, I know you're an idiot
What would you know about me anyway, Sugawara?!

PAT
IT'S NOT A JOKE! MORNING, KUDOU.
SUGAWARA!
SHE'S AS CUTE AS EVER THIS MORNING.



"SHOULDN'T I BE ASKING YOU THAT, SUGAWARA?"

I WAS TOO MUCH OF A COWARD TO ASK THAT.

I DON'T HAVE THE QUALIFICATIONS
TO PRETEND I UNDERSTAND PEOPLE'S FEELINGS
HEY, NOMA!
I'M GLAD THE WEATHER'S NICE. THE ONE-EYES WILL GO DOWN.
CAN YOU THROW THE TRASH OUT FOR ME?
SURE
ATTENTION ALL STUDENTS ON CLEAN-UP DUTY. PLEASE RETURN TO THE SCHOOL BUILDING.
WONDER WHY THEY'RE ALL CLUSTERED OVER THERE ...?
I GUESS SHE'S TIRED BECAUSE OF THAT TEST COMING UP.

WHAT'S WRONG? DID YOU EAT SOMETHING BAD?
?
HARUKA...?
WHERE THE ONE-EYES ARE GATHERING
JUN. DID YOU SEE?
HUH?
YEAH...
DU-DUMP
AH...
HER PARENTS...
DIED.

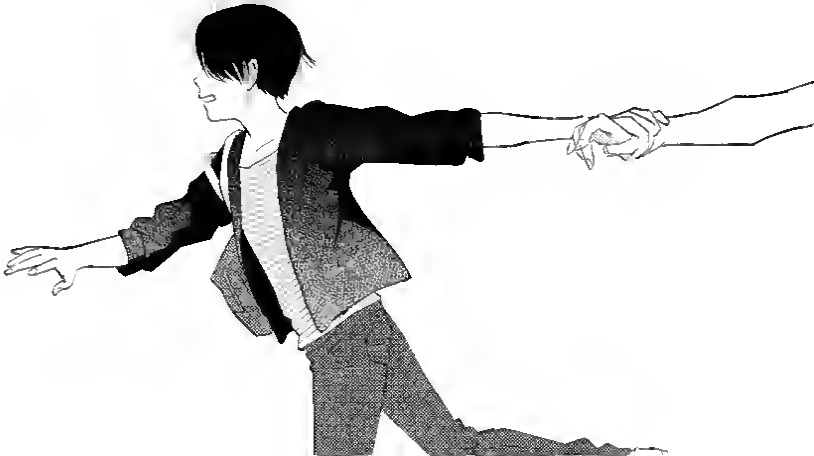
IS SHE SOMEONE YOU KNOW?
NO...
THEN SO WHAT?
DESPITE WHAT HER ONE-EYES ARE SAYING, SHE HERSELF HASN'T SAID A WORD TO ANYONE
SNIFF
BUT... THAT'S WHY...
AND...
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT IT?
WHAT AM I...?
ARE YOU GOING TO GO AND GIVE HER A PEP TALK?
HUH?!
THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO
EVEN WHEN YOU SEE THEM, THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO.
DO YOU WANT HER TO SPREAD WEIRD RUMORS ABOUT YOU?

HARUKA DOESN'T UNDERSTAND ANYTHING.
YOU'RE JUST TOO KIND THAT'S YOUR PROBLEM.
SHUT UP! SHUT UP!
I'M TRYING TO SLEEP!
GLARE
I'M SCARED I'M SCARED
I'M SCARED I'M SCARED I'M SCARED
WHY? WHY? WHY? WHY?
NO! NO! NO! I'M SCARED. I'M SCARED
I'M SAD. I'M SAD. WHY? WHY? I'M SAD I'M SAD
WHERE THE HELL DID YOU COME FROM?!
AH, GEEZ. IT'S BARELY THURSDAY!

I'M SLEEPY I'M SLEEP
I'M NERVOUS I'M NERVOUS
I'M SAD I'M SAD
WHY IS A ONE-EYE IN MY BEDROOM...?
FLOMP
I DON'T WANT TO SEE YOU...
SUGAWARA HAD ONE-EYES THE FOLLOWING WEEK, TOO

THEY'D INCREASED SINCE THE WEEK BEFORE.
THEY'RE PROBABLY JUST BECAUSE OF THE SOCCER MATCH AGAIN.
DON'T WORRY SO MUCH
AS FOR WHY WE CAN SEE THEM...
WE'VE NEVER REALLY KNOWN.
IT'S NOT LIKE IT HAS ANYTHING TO DO WITH YOU, HARUKA
HEY!
HEY, ARE YOU OKAY?
IT WOULD BE A HELL OF A LOT EASIER IF WE COULDN'T.
AH...
I TOLD YOU TO LEAVE HIM ALONE.

AFTER ALL, THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO
IS IT ASKING ME?
WHY?
WHY?
WHY?
WHY?
WHY?
WHY?
WHY?
WHY?
IT'S NO GOOD
I DON'T WANT TO DIE! I DON'T WANT
MOMO
I'M SCARED I'M SCARED
IT'S THE END IT'S OVER
THE END
I DON'T WANT TO SEE THEM.
I DON'T WANT TO SEE THEM



BUT EVERY THURSDAY IS THE SAME.
BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP
BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP
BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP
CLICK
YAWN
HE SAID HE HAS A COMMITTEE MEETING, SO HE WAS GOING AHEAD
OKAY
MORNING.
GOOD MORNING. HARUKA CAME OVER EARLIER.
SINCE IT'S THURSDAY, I'LL JUST SQUINT MY EYES AND RUN FOR IT!
SEE YOU.

...?
THERE AREN'T MANY ONE-EYES TODAY..
JUN-JUN! GOOD MORNING!
MAYBE IT'LL BE A GOOD DAY!
?!
!
DID SOMETHING GOOD HAPPEN? YOU SEEM HAPPY.
EARLIER I WAS THINKING SOOOO HARD ABOUT WANTING TO TALK TO YOU!

WHY...?
THE ONE-EYES ARE GONE...
Swallow before you try to talk.
THAT'S WHY MFF MFF MFF NFFM
WHAT'S UP WITH YOU TODAY ANYWAY, JUN?
DID SOMETHING GOOD HAPPEN?
AND THEN THIS CAT GOT INTO THE GARDEN,
IT WAS CRYING OUT JUST LIKE A LITTLE KID!

EVEN THOUGH IT'S THURS-DAY,
AFTER ALL,
YEAH, A LITTLE
I HAVEN'T SEEN ANY ONE-EYES.
EVEN THOUGH IT'S THURS-DAY
DING DONG
HELLO!
COMING!
OH, IT'S YOU, JUN. DID YOU GET TALLER AGAIN? HARUKA'S IN HIS ROOM.
A little yeah.
THANKS FOR HAVING ME OVER
HARUKA I'M COMING IN

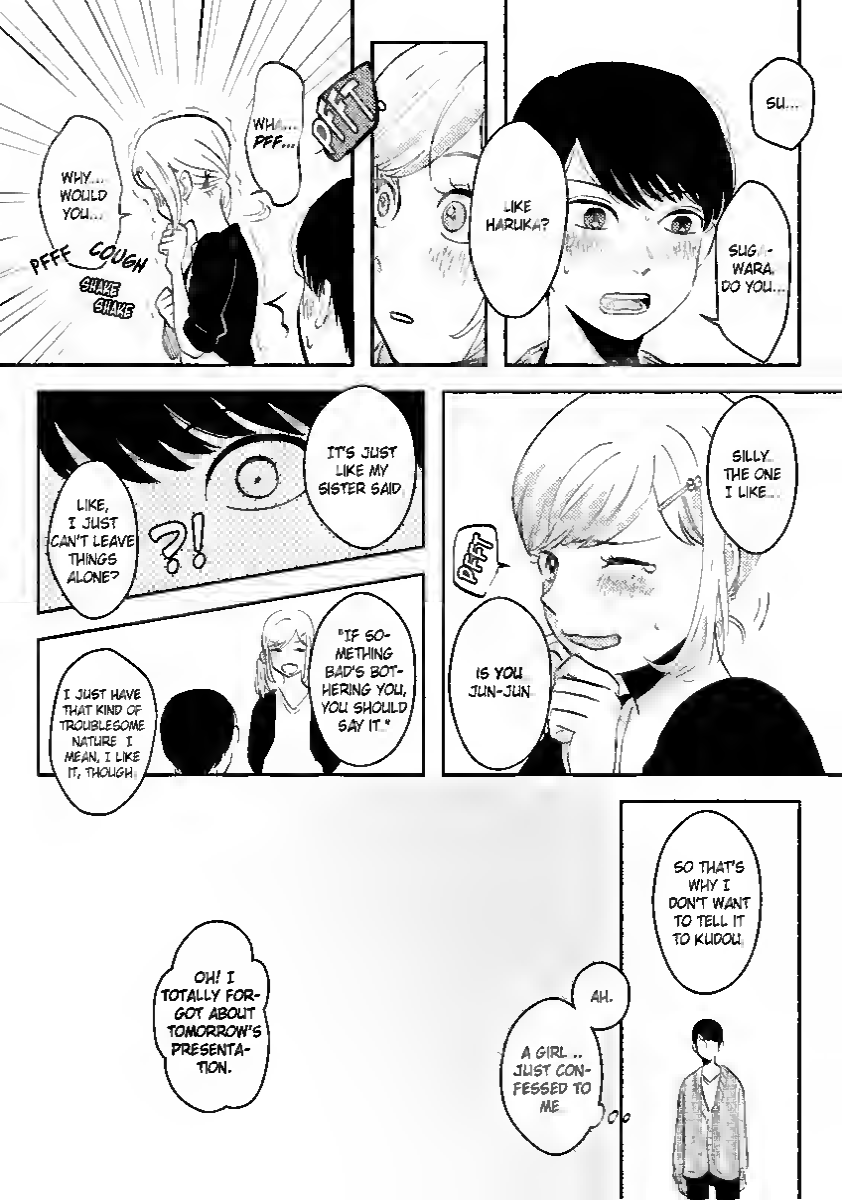
YO!
?!
HARU...
UH.
I CAME TO LEND YOU MY NOTEBOOK IT HAS MY MATH NOTES
OH!
You don't need to pinch it like that.
WHAT'S UP? YOUR FACE LOOKS AWFUL
Here.
HA HA HA!
I BET... YOU CAN UNDERSTAND WHAT HAPPENED DRESSED LIKE THIS
Give me my clothes...
I DON'T THINK I EVEN WANT TO HEAR THE EXPLANATION
You don't need to hide your chest like that
WELL, YOU CAN SEE HOW IT IS, RIGHT?
YOU SAT THERE NAKED SO LONG YOU CAUGHT A COLD?
HUH? NO... I MEAN...

WELL. LOOK AROUND. IT'S OBVIOUS, RIGHT?
HUH...?
LOOK AROUND...?
...
AH. OH...
RIGHT. I SEE
No need to spell it out!
IF YOU GET IT, GIVE ME MY SHIRT
YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN REALLY SENSITIVE, HARUKA
WELL, OF COURSE. JUST LOOKING AT THESE THINGS WOULD CREEP ANYONE OUT.

ALWAYS, ON THURS-DAYS.
IT'S ALWAYS BEEN THURSDAYS
EVERY THURSDAY WITHOUT FAIL.

TODAY, TOO, IS THURSDAY BUT...
HEY! JUN-JUN!

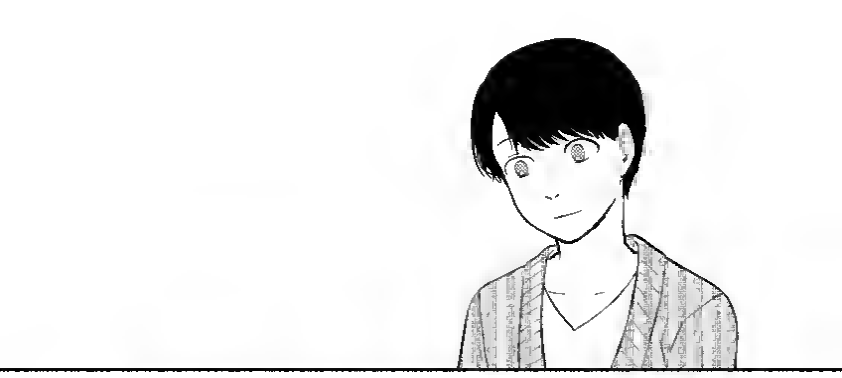
IS KUDOU OUT SICK TODAY? I'M WORRIED.
YEAH HE CAUGHT A COLD.
What?!
SO EVEN AN IDIOT CAN CATCH A COLD! HOW AMUSING!
SAYING THAT WITH SUCH A CUTE FACE...
DID YOU HAVE SOMETHING YOU WANTED TO TELL HIM?
WELL, OUR GROUP IS SUPPOSED TO BE GIVING A PRESENTATION FRIDAY. I WANTED TO ASK HOW HE'S DOING WITH IT
I MEAN, SINCE IT'S ALREADY THURSDAY.
YOU SHOULD GO ASK HIM.
UM... OR ARE YOU JUST BAD AT TALKING TO GIRLS? OR SOMETHING? I MEAN...
THAT'S... NOT IT.
I WANT TO BE CLOSER FRIENDS WITH YOU, JUN-JUN. AND KUDOU TOO.
!
CLENCH
JUN-JUN DO YOU NOT LIKE TALKING WITH ME?
WHAT?
YOU'RE ALWAYS JUST HANGING AROUND WITH KUDOU AND SAWADA
(Sawada)
...


SU...
SUGAWARA, DO YOU...
LIKE HARUKA?
PFFT
WHA... PFF...
WHY... WOULD YOU...
PFFF COUGH
SHAKE SHAKE
SILLY... THE ONE I LIKE...
DEFT
IS YOU JUN-JUN
IT'S JUST LIKE MY SISTER SAID
?!
LIKE, I JUST CAN'T LEAVE THINGS ALONE?
"IF SOMETHING BAD'S BOTHERING YOU, YOU SHOULD SAY IT."
I JUST HAVE THAT KIND OF TROUBLESOME NATURE I MEAN, I LIKE IT, THOUGH!
SO THAT'S WHY I DON'T WANT TO TELL IT TO KUDOU.
AH.
A GIRL .. JUST CONFESSED TO ME
OH! I TOTALLY FORGOT ABOUT TOMORROW'S PRESENTATION.

IS YOUR ... COLD OKAY?
I'M NO GOOD AT THIS...
YEAH, MORE OR LESS BUT HEY
WHY D'YOU THINK THERE ARE SO MANY ONE-EYES AROUND?
SHAKE
This is a new DVD
I WONDER HOW I SHOULD PRINT IT
YOU SEEM TO BE JUST FINE THOUGH—
AH, ABOUT THAT
EVEN ON THE WAY BACK FROM THE HOSPITAL.
THERE WERE A TON OF THEM TODAY
... HUH?
SINCE... LAST WEEK
I...
I CAN'T SEE THEM ANY MORE.
THE ONE-EYES

SFX BU-BUMP
I SEE.
SORRY... I... SORRY
BU-BUMP
BU-BUMP
NOTHING? NOT EVEN ONE?
WHAT? YOU CAN'T SEE THEM?
Gough

THAT'S GOOD.



YEAH.

IT SEEMED LIKE HE REALLY WANTED TO CRY.

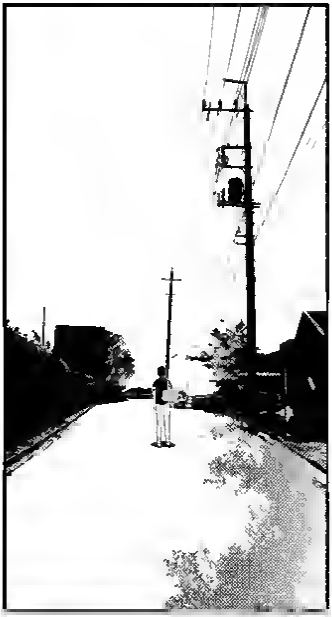
"WHY ONLY YOU?!"
THERE'S NO DOUBT IN MY MIND THAT HE WAS THINKING THAT...
NOTHING THIS THURSDAY, EITHER...
I GUESS I REALLY CAN'T SEE THEM ANY MORE
SLIP
RAS!
TIAD
?
HARUKA?
JUST NOW SHE...
NO, IT'S NOTHING!
Let's hurry!

SHE SEEMS WELL.
SHE SAID SHE GOT IT FROM HER SISTER!
?
AH... YEAH...?
?
JUN-JUN!
SUGA-WARA... IS ALWAYS SO DIRECT...
Don't lie, or you'll end up a thief
You're so dishonest, Jun-Jun!
WHAT? BUT YOU WERE LOOKING AT ONE LIKE IT IN THE STORE. I SAW YOU!
WHY DOES SHE...?
UH... SORRY I'M... BAD WITH THAT STUFF...
LOOK, LOOK! MY FRIEND GAVE ME THIS
ISN'T IT CUTE? HUH?
ANYWAY, PEOPLE WOULD LAUGH AT ME.

HEY.
ARE YOU LOOKING FOR THESE?
SNATCH
ON GUARD
NOW THAT'S HONEST
Gulrrr...
GLARE
YOUR NAME...
KAREN
IT'S KAREN, HUH?
THAT'S A CUTE NAME FOR A GIRL.
DON'T LOSE THEM AGAIN, OKAY?
THANK YOU

THEY NEVER BROUGHT ME ANYTHING GOOD.
TEACHER! ENA ISN'T CLEANING!
HE'S SO SCARY...
...
HOW DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THAT...?!
SO IT'S OKAY IF SHE DOESN'T CLEAN TODAY, RIGHT?
RIGHT?
RIGHT?
HER MOM AND DAD GOT IN A FIGHT YESTERDAY, AFTER ALL.
HUH? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
STOP IT. IT'S NOT LIKE SHE CAN HELP IT, RIGHT?
YOU'RE A BAD KID.
NOT A SINGLE GOOD THING...
AUNTY WISHES SHE HAD A KID LIKE YOU!
LIES LIES LIES LIES.
I SHOULD BE GLAD THAT THEY'RE GONE.
YOU'RE SUCH A GOOD KID, JUN-JUN.

I CAN'T SEE ANYTHING ANY MORE.



Guess he had to crap?
HIS FACE TURNED COMPLETELY RED AND HE RAN OFF.
HE SAID SOMETHING ABOUT GOING TO CLASS 3, THOUGH.
YO, JUN.
Yo.
HUH. WHERE'S HARUKA?
IT'S NOT EVEN THURSDAY.
WHAT IS HE DOING?
AH, HEY!
DASH
GOOD MORNING
MORNING
GOOD MORNING!

DON'T START FEELING LIKE YOU UNDERSTAND PEOPLE'S HEARTS
DING DONG
JUN...
YOU...

SFX. FLOMP. FLINCH
RUSTLE
WHWHWHWH WHAT THE HELL?! AN UMBRELLA?!
Jesus, that scared me!
GRIN
IT'S SUPPOSED TO RAIN TODAY SEEMS LIKE YOU'RE THE ONE WHO DIDN'T WATCH THE NEWS
JUN
YOU DON'T NEED TO WORRY ABOUT ME LIKE THAT, OKAY?
I'VE DECIDED TO LIVE HOW I WANT TO LIVE

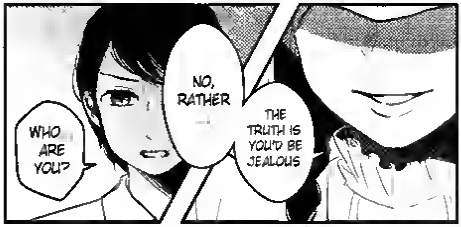
THAT DAY, IT RAINED.
EVEN IF IT'S JUST ME, IT'S FINE.
RUMBLE RUMBLE
SFX FSSSSHHHHH, CRACKLE
MY HAIR'S GETTING PRETTY LONG.
DOESN'T HE UNDERSTAND THAT IT'S NONE OF HIS BUSINESS?

I SUDDENLY WANT TO MEET SUGAWARA WHY?
HEY, JUN.
WHAT? HOW COULD YOU TELL?
HM... A LITTLE, I GUESS.
BUMP
HUH?
DO YOU HAVE A FEVER OR SOMETHING?
SHE COULD TELL JUST BY LOOKING AT ME...? SHE REALLY MUST BE PSYCHIC...
UH, IT'S COLD.
My stomach hurts
WOBBLE
BUT IT'S MY TURN TO COOK TODAY.
ANYONE WOULD BE ABLE TO TELL JUST LOOKING AT YOU. GO TO BED, TO BED.
PUSH!
PUSH
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT! WHEN YOU'RE NOT FEELING GOOD, YOU SHOULD SAY SOMETHING!
YOUR FACE LOOKS TERRIBLE
RUMBLE RUMBLE
Ah, it's thundering.
ARE YOU PSYCHIC OR SOMETHING, MOM?
Scary

OH.
WHAT'S HAPPENED? YOU AREN'T SUPPOSED TO BE HERE.
I'M... LOST.
LOST?
I WAS JUST WALKING... NOT THINKING ABOUT ANYTHING AT ALL.
FOR SOMEONE WHO NORMALLY THINKS SO MUCH TO GET LOST THAT WAY.
HOW FUNNY.

I BET NOT. YOU'D THINK ANYONE WHO DID THAT WAS A FOOL.
TAP
TAP

HEY, HAVE YOU EVER DANCED BARE-FOOT ON TOP OF SHARDS OF GLASS?
TAP


WHO ARE YOU?
NO, RATHER
THE TRUTH IS YOU'D BE JEALOUS

WHAT YOU'VE FORGOT-TEN?

IT'S ME.
ME.

GASP
WHAT'S WRONG?
FSSSSHHHHHH
DID YOU HAVE A BAD DREAM?
JUST LEAVE ME ALONE
SFX. FSSSHHHHHH
I WANT TO MAKE IT.
NO WAY.

FOR ANYTHING AND EVERY-THING.
FSSSSHHHH

BUT THERE'S SUCH A THING AS OVER-THINKING.
AS SOON AS I THOUGHT ABOUT IT, I UNDER-STOOD.
DON'T START FEEL-ING LIKE YOU UNDERSTAND PEOPLE'S HEARTS
PANT
PANT
SEND MAIL
HARUHARU_KUDO_SUNN
<KUDOU HARUKA>
CUT IT OUT ALREADY
----END----
SEND
OPTIONS
PANT

PANT
PANT
HOW STUPID
PANT
I SHOULD HAVE BEEN... SAYING THAT... TO MYSELF.
PANT
UGH
I'M...
PANT
THE WORST.
SFX FSSSSSHH
WHERE THE HELL IS MY OTHER SANDAL?!
UGH. MY BODY'S... SHAKING...
콜록
SFX COUGH

SFX: FSSSSHHH
サアアア
HEY.
THE RAIN...
AHH...
MAYBE I'LL JUST DIE.
UMBRELLA...
AH.
YOU DROPPED IT IN FRONT OF OUR HOUSE.
HERE.
..?
BUT.
WHERE'S YOUR UMBRELLA?
YOU'LL GET SOAKED.

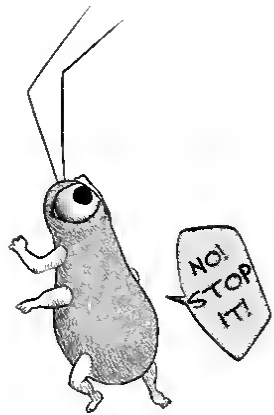
YOU WERE RUNNING BAREFOOT.
SFX: SLIP
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
COULD THAT BE .

I'll lend you my umbrella
UM
WHERE ARE YOU GOING, ANYWAY?
WOW, YOU LOOK TERRIBLE. DIDN'T YOU WATCH THE NEWS?
SUGAWARA...
I'LL GIVE YOU THIS
WELL, IF YOU'RE GOING SOME-WHERE,
Oh!
YOU MAKE A PRETTY CUTE GIRL WHEN YOU'RE WET LIKE THIS.

I MEAN... THERE'S SO MANY THINGS WE CAN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT.
Ha ha ha
THE KITTY IS TALKING!
YOU DON'T WANT TO BE A CAT? HOW ABOUT A DOG?
I'M... NOT GOOD AT ANIMALS
But...
SINCE YOU'RE SO CUTE, JUN-KITTY, IS IT OKAY IF I KEEP YOU?
KITTY...?
Meow!
AND THAT'S WHY!
BUT...
THERE ARE... SO MANY PAINFUL THINGS
PLOP
PLOP
YOU DON'T NEED TO TRY TAKING CARE OF EVERYBODY
CHIRP CHIRP
IT STOPPED!
SHINE
SHINE
EVERY-BODY...
TRIES TO BE KIND TO ONE ANOTHER, RIGHT?

MY SISTER'S NEW BABY!
?
BY THE WAY, HE WAS BORN WHILE IT WAS RAINING.
AH!
HE!
SUMMER RAINS NEVER LAST LONG
BUT HE'S BORN NOW.
WE WERE ALL REALLY WORRIED.
IT WAS A DIFFICULT PREGNANCY
SO..
THERE ARE ACTUALLY A WHOLE LOT OF THINGS
I'M GOING TO BUY SOME FLOWERS.
YOU CAN UNDERSTAND JUST BY THINKING ABOUT THEM
HEY.

IT'S TURNED OUT TO BE A PRETTY GOOD DAY.
ONE THING I'LL NEVER KNOW, THOUGH,
IS WHICH OF US STARTED TO SMILE FIRST, THAT DAY.
END


NO! STOP IT!

Saraba, Yasashii Yuuzuru

Story 1

BY ARINAGA INE

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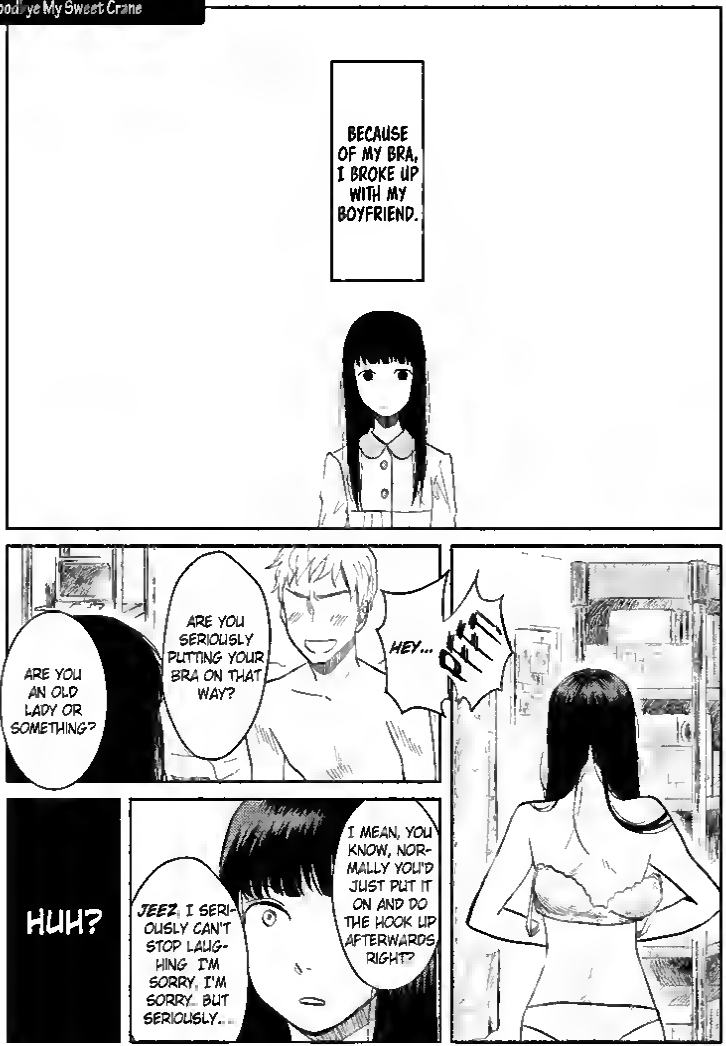

BECAUSE OF MY BRA, I BROKE UP WITH MY BOYFRIEND.
ARE YOU AN OLD LADY OR SOMETHING?
ARE YOU SERIOUSLY PUTTING YOUR BRA ON THAT WAY?
HEY...
HUH?
JEEZ. I SERIOUSLY CAN'T STOP LAUGHING. I'M SORRY, I'M SORRY. BUT SERIOUSLY...
I MEAN, YOU KNOW, NORMALLY YOU'D JUST PUT IT ON AND DO THE HOOK UP AFTERWARDS, RIGHT?

SO I'M FORGETFUL AND HAVE BAD MANNERS.

I CAN'T HELP IT. NOT A BIT OF IT.

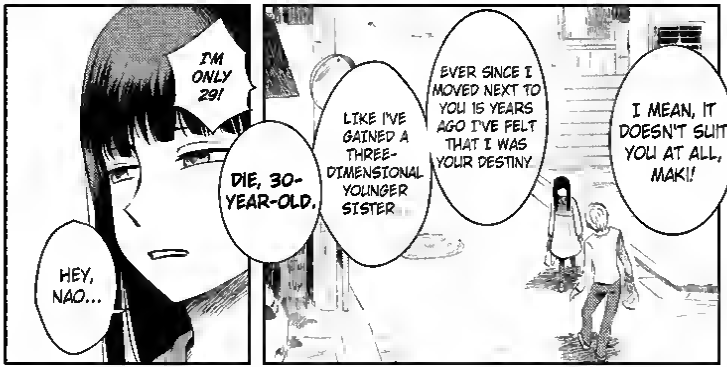
SO I HAVE NO COMMON SENSE AND AM ALWAYS SUSPICIOUS.

AFTER ALL, NOBODY EVER TAUGHT ME A THING.

I FOOUUUND YOU!
MAKI!
SO ANYWAY, LATELY I'VE BEEN INTO IT TOO, YOU KNOW?
BLAH
HEY, MAKI, YOU TOLD ME TEN YEARS AGO, RIGHT, THAT SOY MILK IS DELICIOUS?
AND I WONDERED, SHOULD I BUY SOY MILK?
AND SO I THOUGHT, YOU KNOW, WHAT IF I MAKE HOT POT?
THE MEAT WAS SUPER CHEAP TODAY!
DONE WITH SCHOOL? WHY DON'T YOU COME EAT AT MY PLACE?
CUT SCENE
Out of the way!
"Make way for Her Menstruating-ness!"
If you are I can carry you home princess-style.
DIE RIGHT HERE AND NOW, YOU LOLICON HOST CLUB REGULAR.
ON YOUR PERIOD?
MAKI, ARE YOU...
...

トン
STOP MAKING THAT "FAKE ANNOYED" FACE.
Stomp on me where..?
IF YOU KEEP TALKING, I'LL STOMP ON YOU.
I'M JUST AN AUTHOR, THAT'S ALL! MY WORK WOULD BE UNCONVINCING IF I'D NEVER ONCE COME INTO CONTACT WITH A HOSTESS WHO LOOKED LIKE A SMALL CHILD!
That's not what I meant at all!
AH, NO! DON'T TURN ME INTO SOME STEREOTYPICAL LOSER WHO'S AN EXPERT ON WOMEN WHO LOOK LIKE THEY'RE BETWEEN THE AGES OF 8 AND 12 OR ANYTHING!
AH.

SFX. GASP

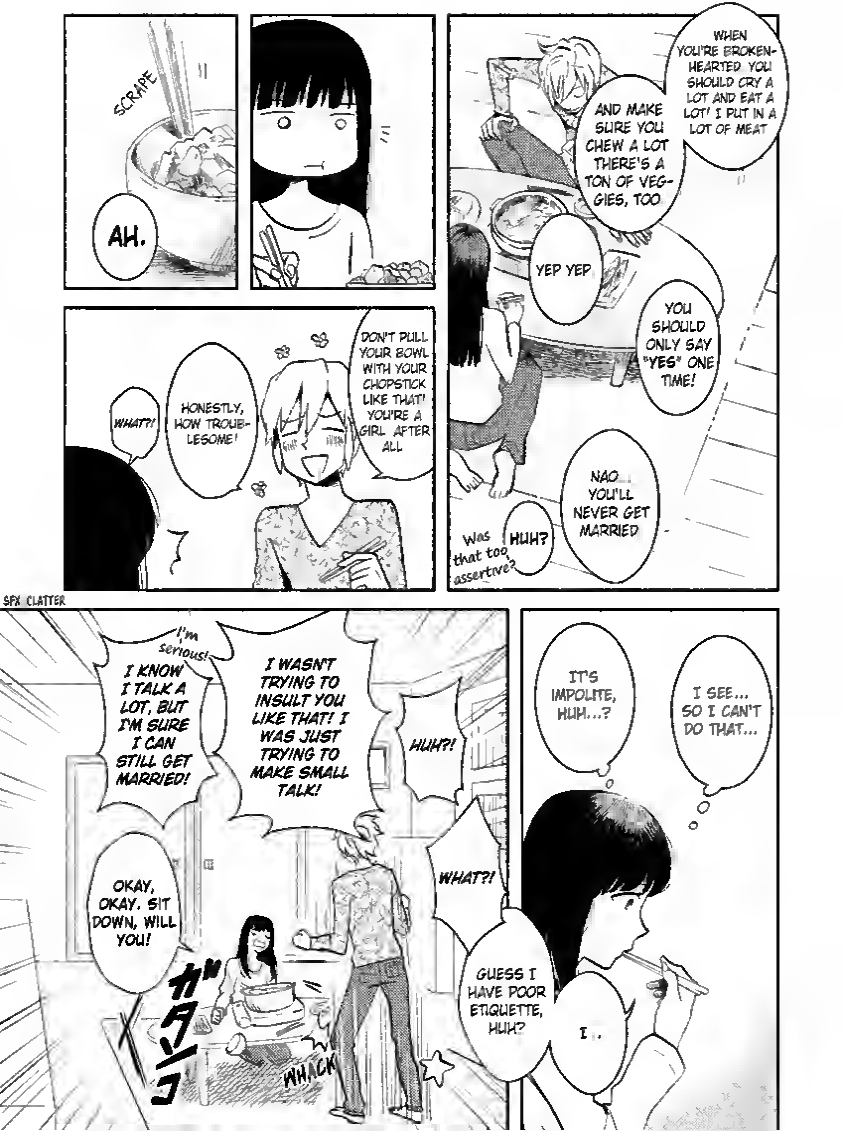

I'M ONLY 29!
DIE, 30-YEAR-OLD.
HEY, NAO...
LIKE I'VE GAINED A THREE-DIMENSIONAL YOUNGER SISTER
EVER SINCE I MOVED NEXT TO YOU 15 YEARS AGO I'VE FELT THAT I WAS YOUR DESTINY
I MEAN, IT DOESN'T SUIT YOU AT ALL, MAK!!

MY BOYFRIEND DUMPED ME EARLIER.
SO LEAVE ME ALONE FOR TODAY.

I MET MY NEIGHBOR NAO, WHO IS SEVEN YEARS OLDER THAN ME,
IT'S OKAY
I DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING ABOUT IT, SO
YOU'VE ALREADY LOST YOUR PARENTS, SO HOW CAN THE WORLD CONTINUE TO BE THIS CRUEL TO YOU?!
DAMN IT, THAT SHITTY LOSER! I'M GONNA CUT HIM!
SFX ZOOM
DON'T WORRY, I'LL LEAVE HIS PARTS ALONE.
There are LAWS, you know!
HA HA HA。
I'M GONNA WHITE HIM OUT.
TUBE. SUPER WHITEOUT
L, LET GO OF ME!
HOW DARE HE HURT SUCH A PERFECTLY A-CUP SPECIMEN AS YOU, MAKI!
HNNGGGGG!
SHUT THE HELL UP, YOU DAMN LOLITA COMPLEX ASSHOLE!
IT'D BE DIFFERENT IF YOU WERE A B-CUP, BUT ...!
SHUT UP!
SFX. SLIIIDE

I'M ... AKANE-ZAWA.
MAKI.
EARLY WARNING SIGN
I'M TORII NAO. STARTING TODAY I'LL BE LIVING NEXT DOOR.
OH, HELLO THERE! YOU'RE A CUTIE
AGE 7
AGE 14
THE MONTH AFTER MY MOTHER DISAPPEARED, HE MOVED IN.
I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE HOME. LET'S EAT TOGETHER!
CLATTER
MAKI! AND YOUR GRANDMA, TOO!
MAAAKIII!!
DING DONG
DING DONG
DING DONG
FAR TOO BRIGHT.
NAO WAS ALWAYS...

WHEN MY GRANDMOTHER– THE ONLY GROWN-UP IN MY LIFE– PASSED AWAY, HE SOBBED LOUDLY.
HIS VOICE WAVERY AND PATHETIC.
SAYING "I'M SORRY. I'M SORRY."
IT'S NOT LIKE THERE WAS ANYTHING HE COULD HAVE DONE ABOUT HER DEATH.
TIME TO EAT!


SCRAPE
AH.
WHEN YOU'RE BROKEN-HEARTED YOU SHOULD CRY A LOT AND EAT A LOT! I PUT IN A LOT OF MEAT
AND MAKE SURE YOU CHEW A LOT THERE'S A TON OF VEG-GIES, TOO
YEP YEP
YOU SHOULD ONLY SAY "YES" ONE TIME!
NAO... YOU'LL NEVER GET MARRIED
HUH?
Was that too assertive?
DON'T PULL YOUR BOWL WITH YOUR CHOPSTICK LIKE THAT! YOU'RE A GIRL AFTER ALL
HONESTLY, HOW TROUBLESOME!
WHAT?!
SFX: CLATTER
IT'S IMPOLITE, HUH...?
I SEE... SO I CAN'T DO THAT...
I . .
GUESS I HAVE POOR ETIQUETTE, HUH?
WHAT?!
HUH?!
I WASN'T TRYING TO INSULT YOU LIKE THAT! I WAS JUST TRYING TO MAKE SMALL TALK!
I'm serious!
I KNOW I TALK A LOT, BUT I'M SURE I CAN STILL GET MARRIED!
OKAY, OKAY. SIT DOWN, WILL YOU!
ガタン
WHACK

ANYWAY... ETIQUETTE OR WHATEVER DOESN'T MATTER
YOU'RE A NICE GIRL, MAKI
EVEN WHEN YOU WERE LITTLE, YOU WERE NEVER EVEN SLIGHTLY MEAN.
REALLY
THAT'S THE KIND OF PERSON HE IS.
I SEE...

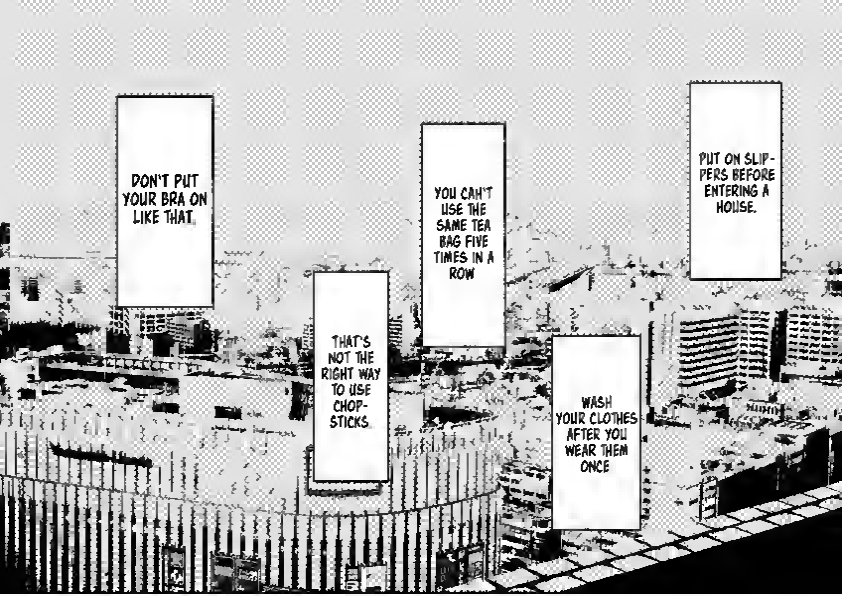
SFX FSSSHHHH
SOME-TIMES HE'S EXCEEDINGLY CLOYING.
MAKI, MAKI!
WAVE WAVE
C'MERE A MINUTE, WILL YOU?

I HAVE A GIFT FOR YOU.
HUH? I DON'T NEED IT.
(BLUNT RESPONSE)
THIS ISN'T JUST ANY BOX.
HEY!
HERE, TAKE A LOOK.
A... CRANE? WHY WOULD I NEED THAT?
(BLUNT RESPONSE)
Eek!
I'M NOT GIVING THAT TO YOU! ANYWAY, BY THE TIME YOU WERE IN SCHOOL THEY'D STOPPED MAKING TESTS SUCH A BIG DEAL!
I SAID I DIDN'T NEED IT.
PLUS IT'S ALL WRINKLED AND OLD
HEH HEH.
DO YOU KNOW WHAT THIS IS?

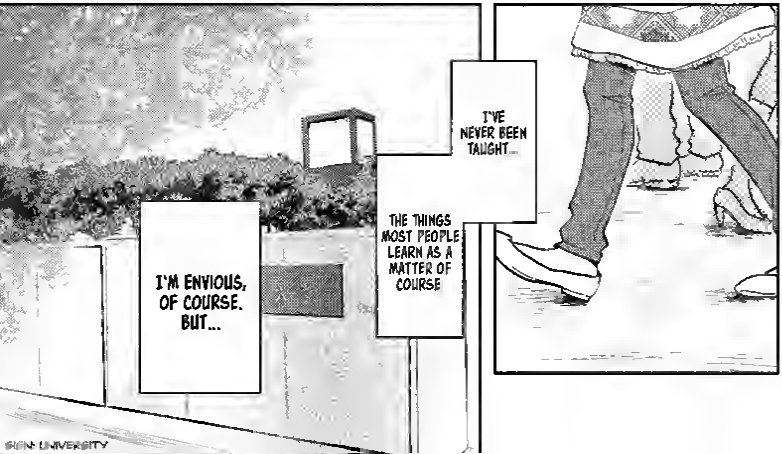
IT'S A BOX THAT GIVES YOU IMPORTANT THINGS FROM YOUR OWN MEMORIES
ANYWAY, JUST HUMOR ME AND TAKE IT!
I'M NOT HUMORING YOU AND I DON'T WANT TO.
GIVE ME SOME SPACE TO MANEU-VER HERE!
REJECTED.
WHAT?!
Stop making that face!
REVIEW
Nothing new to see.
And loosen up your body a little!

YOU FORGOT THIS WHEN YOU LEFT LAST NIGHT! MIO
THAT CREEP LET HIMSELF IN WITH MY EMERGENCY KEY.
ガバッ
It's times like this when I'm glad I have this key. What a great key!
TADAAA☆
SFX GAH
CLOP
HA HA... HE REALLY BROUGHT IT HERE...
WHO'S THE ONE THAT NEEDS SPACE?

NAO HAS PLENTY OF MONEY.
HIS YOUNG ADULT NOVELS SELL LIKE CRAZY.
A MARBLE?
It's red.
Panties, Panties.
MOUNTAIN OF UN WASHED LAUNDRY
WEIRDO.
CLATTER
HUP...
SHAKE
SHAKE
GGGGG
SHAKE
SHAKE
IT'S IMPOS-SIBLE!
I'LL NEVER LEARN TO BE LIKE OTHER PEOPLE.

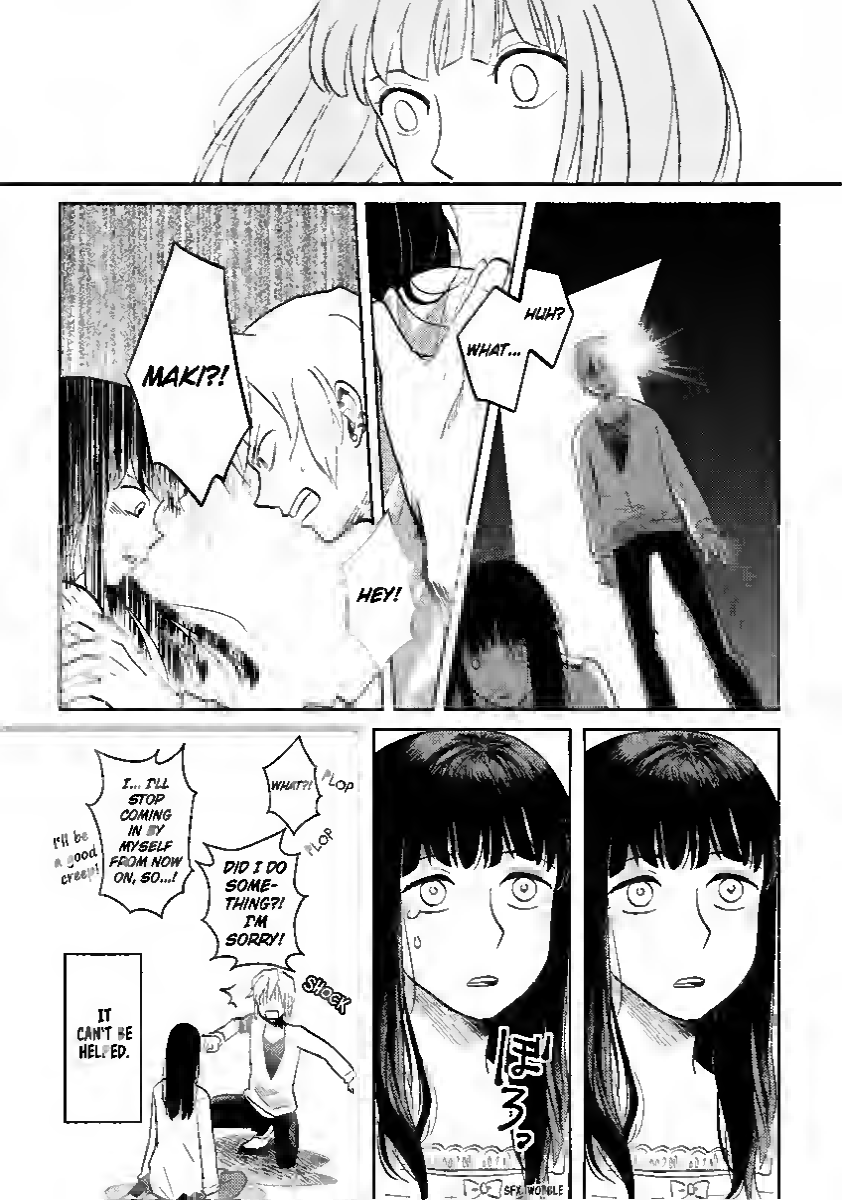

DON'T PUT YOUR BRA ON LIKE THAT.
THAT'S NOT THE RIGHT WAY TO USE CHOP-STICKS.
YOU CAN'T USE THE SAME TEA BAG FIVE TIMES IN A ROW
WASH YOUR CLOTHES AFTER YOU WEAR THEM ONCE
PUT ON SLIP-PERS BEFORE ENTERING A HOUSE.

NO-BODY..
EVER TAUGHT ME HOW.


I'M ENVIOUS, OF COURSE. BUT...
THE THINGS MOST PEOPLE LEARN AS A MATTER OF COURSE
I'VE NEVER BEEN TAUGHT...

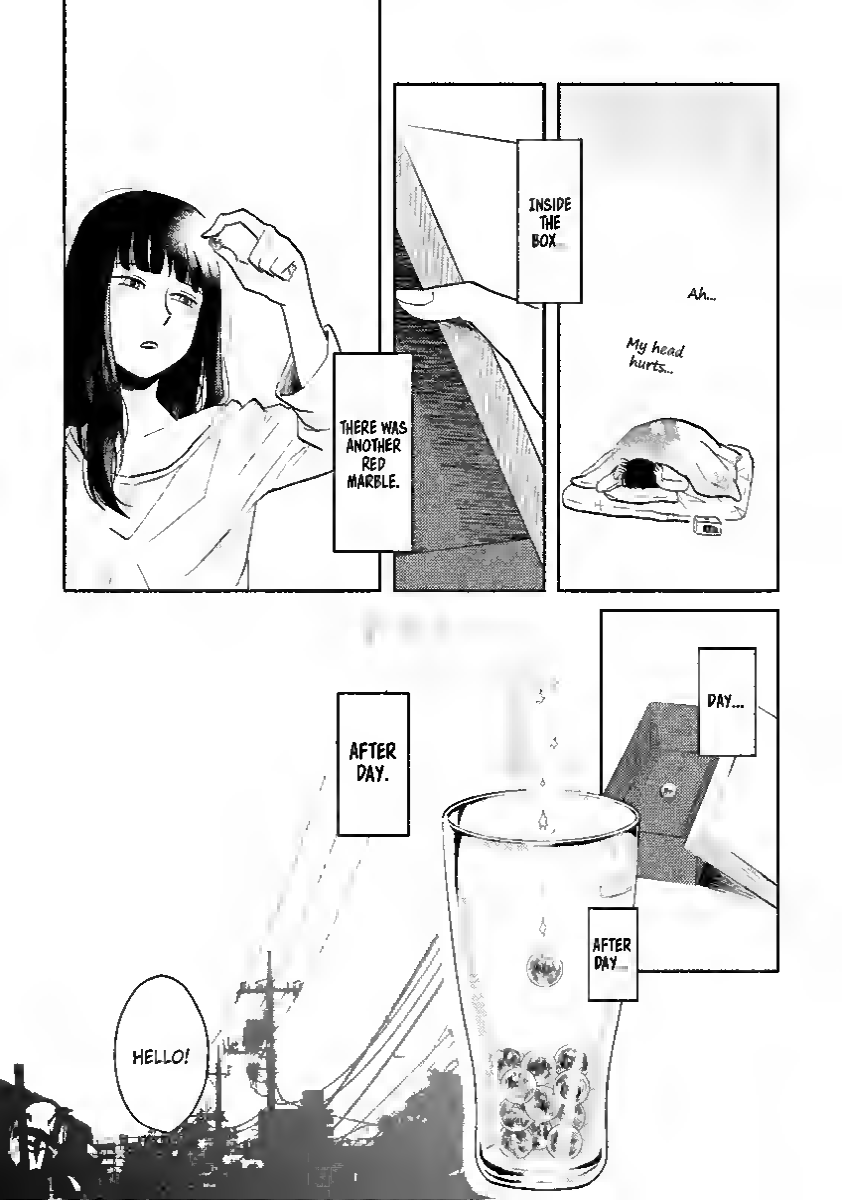
WHAT'S THAT OLD-WOMAN SMELL?
AH.

I... SKIPPED ALL MY CLASSES...
CLICK
Crud
MY GRADES ARE GONNA TANK
AH, JEEZ
CHIP?
CLICK
CLICK
SFX: CLATTER
CREAK
MAKI?
Sigh
Ah.
Bleh ...
ZZZ...


MAKI?!
HEY!
HUH?
WHAT...
I'll be a good creep!
I... I'LL STOP COMING IN BY MYSELF FROM NOW ON, SO...!
WHAT?!
DID I DO SOME-THING?! I'M SORRY!
FLOP
FLOP
Shock
IT CAN'T BE HELPED.
SFX: WOBBLE

I HAD NO ONE TO TEACH ME...
THE PROPER WAY TO SKIP CLASS.
IT'S NOBODY'S FAULT, I GUESS.
HERE YOU GO.
EAT IT UP!
IT'S OKAY, JUST GO AHEAD AND EAT. MAN, THIS LOOKS GOOD!
AH... I'M SUCH A GENIUS AT COOKING. I'D WIN ALL THE MICHELIN STARS!
YOU'LL HAVE TO TAKE THE TOWEL OFF FIRST.
NO WAY.
My face is all swollen.
IT'S NOT LIKE I HATE THIS KIND OF WOMAN PROBLEM.

HEY...
NAO WHY DID YOU BECOME AN AUTHOR?
WHAT?
YOU WANT ME TO TALK?! YOU'RE NOT GOING TO SIGH ABOUT YOUR BROKEN HEART?!
But it looked like you were about to spill the beans!
JUST ANSWER ME AL-READY.
EE!
SO I THOUGHT... MAYBE... I SHOULD BECOME AN AUTHOR?
Hmmm
WELL, IT'S NOT REALLY VERY INTE-RESTING
WHEN I WAS IN HIGH SCHOOL...
A FRIEND OF MINE DIED
ISN'T THAT A BIT BRIEF OF AN EX-PLANATION?
Uh...
IT'S ALL MY AUTHOR-VOCABULARY CAN DO
Seriously
ANYWAY, ENOUGH ABOUT ME OKAY!
MORE IMPORTANTLY, CAN WE TALK ABOUT WHY YOU WERE CRYING NOW?!
SPARKLE
HUH? THERE'S NOTHING TO SAY AND I DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT
Shut up
THEN LET'S JUST DRINK! MAYBE TALK WHEN IT GETS LATER?! IS THAT THE BEST TIME TO TALK?!
WHEN I WOKE, I HAD A HANG-OVER.


INSIDE THE BOX...
Ah...
My head hurts...
THERE WAS ANOTHER RED MARBLE.
DAY...
AFTER DAY.
AFTER DAY...
HELLO!

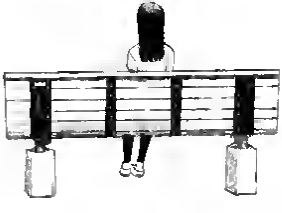
CONSUMER SURVEY
PLEASE ANSWER AS COMPLETELY AS YOU
AGE 22 YEARS
SEX M・F
JOB BUSINESS PERSON HOMEMAKER SELF-EMPLOYED GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE
FAMILY STRUCTURE ___ PERSON
AGE, SEX.. JOB, AND...
...
WE'RE TAKING A BRIEF SURVEY. COULD YOU GIVE US 5 MINUTES OF YOUR TIME?
500 yen.
I'LL GIVE YOU A BOOK-STORE CARD WORTH 500 YEN!
AH OKAY.
SQUEAK
FAMILY STRUCTURE: 1 PERSON
I live alone
I WOULDN'T HAVE KNOWN WHAT TO WRITE ANYWAY
TOO LATE NOW
I SHOULD HAVE JUST LIED ABOUT IT... IT WAS ONLY A SURVEY.
I COULD HAVE GIVEN MYSELF.. A FICTIONAL MOTHER AND FATHER.

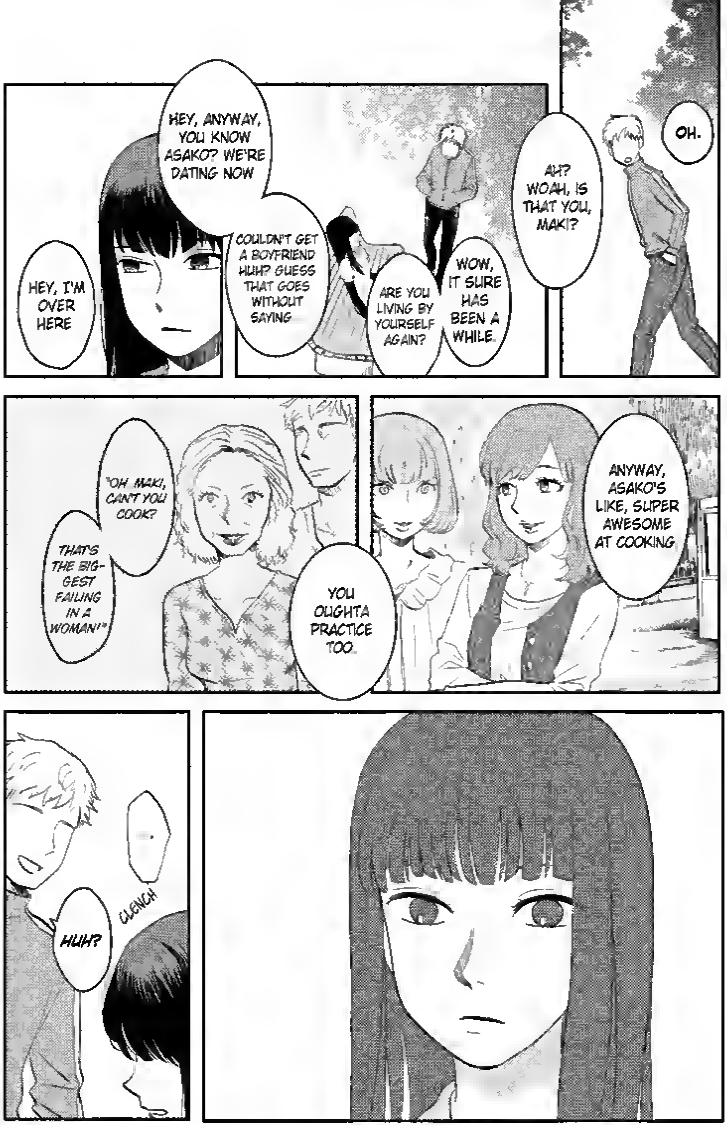
I DON'T REMEMBER ANYTHING BUT MY MOTHER.
MAKI!
I FOUND YOU!
ELEMENTARY SCHOOLERS ARE SO CUTE, HUH? SO CLEANSING
Eek!
Ha, ha, ha! Stop it!
Eek!
Zooom! Waaaah!
Ah...
SHOULD I CALL THE POLICE?
ARE YOU GOING HOME?
I WAS THINKING OF MAKING SOY-MILK AND MISO CARBO-NARA TODAY
I'VE BEEN REALLY INTO SOY-MILK LATELY
AND I WAS THINKING MAYBE I'D MAKE TOFU BURGERS TOO
SINCE I FINALLY FINISHED MY LATEST NOVEL LAST NIGHT.. AH!

I SEE. I'M GLAD.
UH YEAH.
HAVE YOU BEEN OPENING THE BOX EVERY DAY?
AH, THAT REMINDS ME...
BUT... I HAVEN'T FOUND ANYTHING IN THERE THAT I WANT.
SO YOU'RE SAYING IF THERE WAS, YOU'D REACH IN AND TAKE IT?
SURE LIKE...
BILL GATES'S FORTUNE...
AH! SO MEAN.
BUT SERIOUSLY, I DON'T NEED MARBLES, NAO
OOOH, YOU'RE GETTING MARBLES?
HE'S PLAYING DUMB...
That creep...
BEEP BEEP
YOU KNOW, MY FRIEND GAVE ME THAT BOX.
IT'S SUCH A NICE EVENING!
I DON'T REALLY LIKE EVENING MUCH, EITHER
HUH?
I MEAN, ISN'T IT LIKE, SO GLOOMY?
HMM?

"WHOA! THIS IS THE REAL THING" I SAID
This guy...
WHEN I OPENED IT, THIS BOOK I REALLY WANTED WAS THERE
AND,
BRRR
MY CLOSEST FRIEND ONE DAY, HE JUST SAID "THE THING YOU WANT MOST IS INSIDE."
I GUESS...
FLASH!
BUT IF IT REALLY IS THAT GREAT A BOX,
WHY WOULD SOMEONE EVER GIVE IT AWAY?
WHEN THEY OPEN IT AND FIND NOTHING MORE INSIDE.

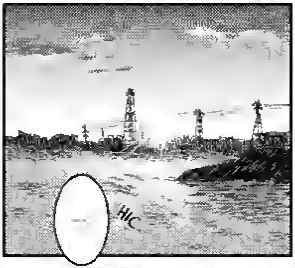
BRIGHT RED LIGHTS
KEEP FLASHING
INSIDE MY EYES.
CLATTER



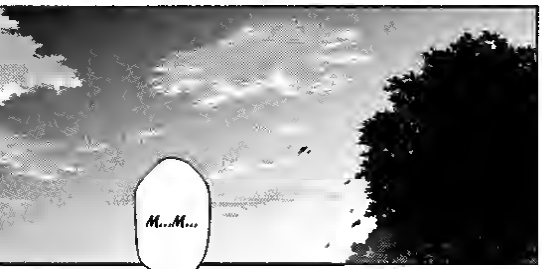

OH.
AH? WOAH, IS THAT YOU, MAKI?
WOW, IT SURE HAS BEEN A WHILE.
ARE YOU LIVING BY YOURSELF AGAIN?
COULDN'T GET A BOYFRIEND HUH? GUESS THAT GOES WITHOUT SAYING.
HEY, ANYWAY, YOU KNOW ASAKO? WE'RE DATING NOW
HEY, I'M OVER HERE
ANYWAY, ASAKO'S LIKE, SUPER AWESOME AT COOKING.
YOU OUGHTA PRACTICE TOO.
"OH MAKI, CAN'T YOU COOK?
THAT'S THE BIGGEST FAILING IN A WOMAN!"
CLENCH
HUH?

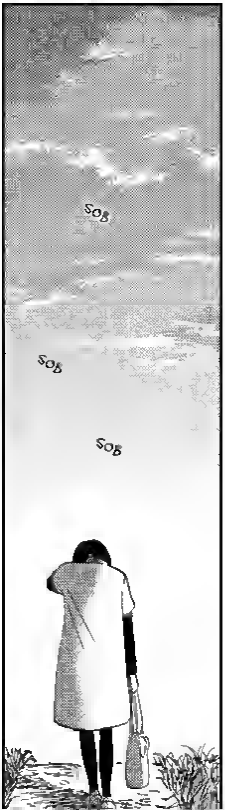
YOU AND YOUR DAMN MOTHER COMPLEX.
IT CAN'T BE HELPED.

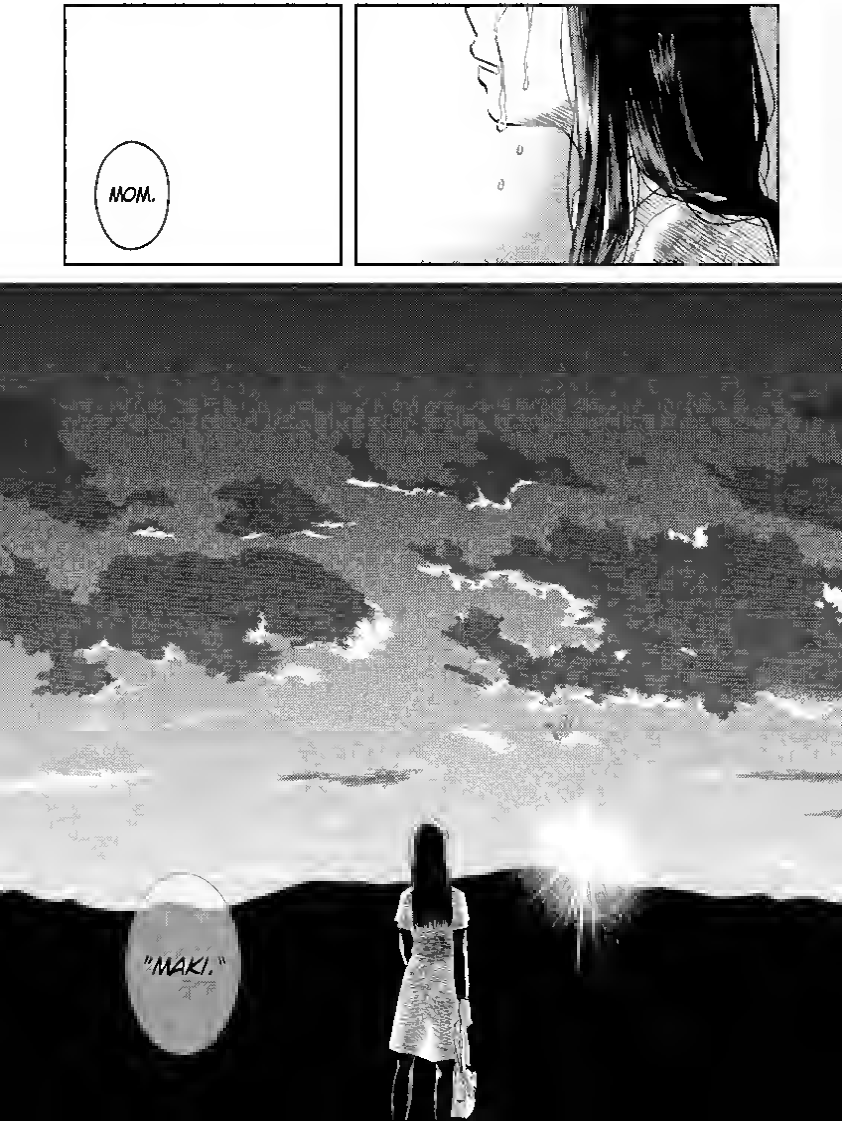
EVEN SO, I CAN'T HELP BUT FEEL ENVIOUS.


HIC

SNIFF
SOB
SOB
...M
SNIFF
HIC
HIC


M...M...

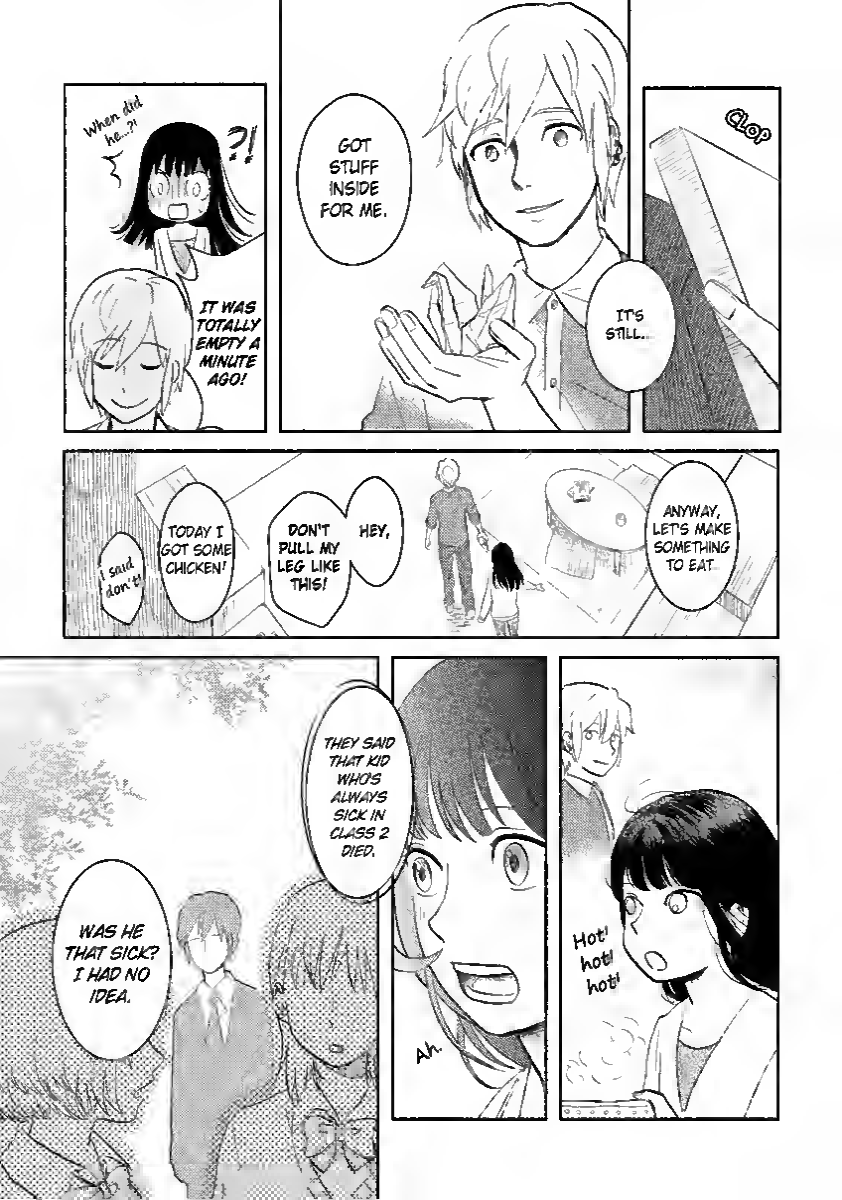

SOB
SOB
SOB

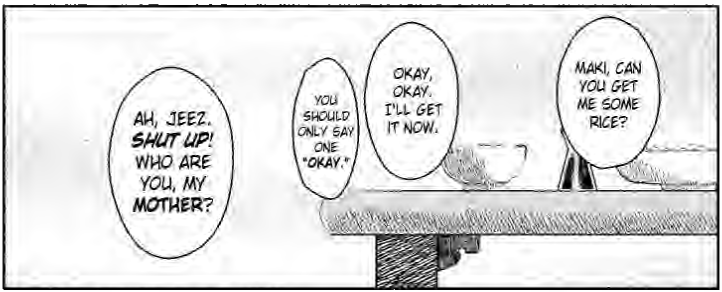

MOM.
"MAKI."

LOOK.
MAKI.
THE SKY'S SO PRETTY.
THE SKY'S SPARKLING LIKE IT'S MADE OF JEWELS.
I WISH IT WOULD STAY LIKE THIS FOR-EVER.

IT'S SO PRETTY. LIKE SPARKLING MARBLES.
THE NEXT DAY,

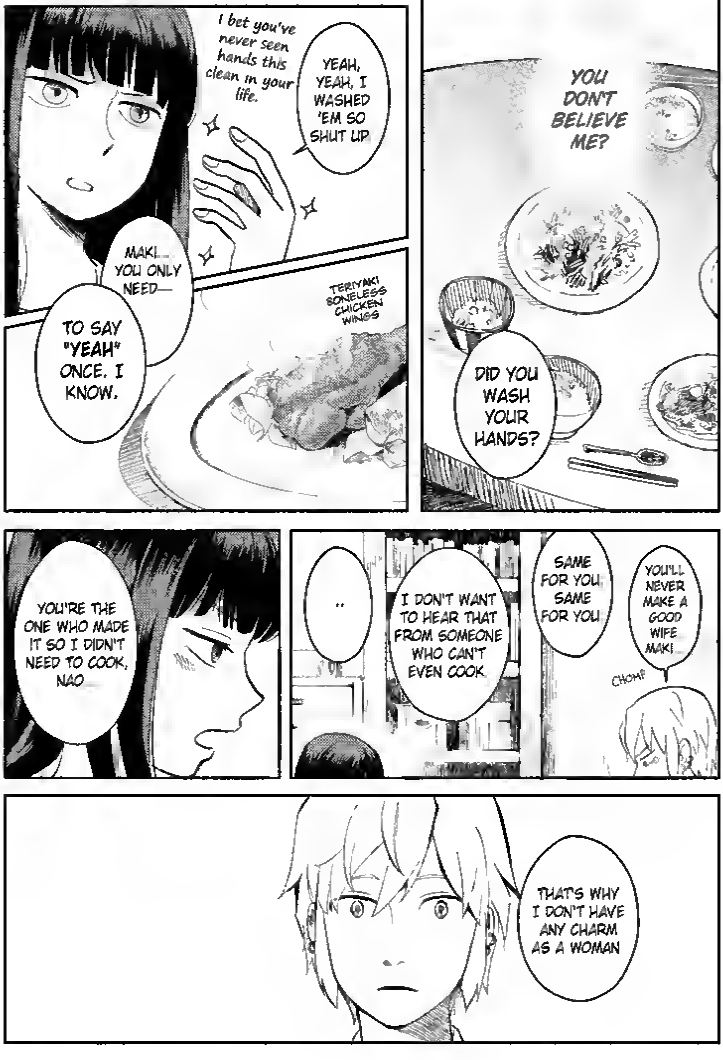
YOU'RE DONE WITH IT ALREADY?
THERE WAS NOTHING INSIDE THE BOX.
SO YOU GOT WHAT YOU WANTED FROM IT?
I SEE
YEAH. I'M GIVING IT BACK
HUH, WHAT?! DID I SAY SOME-THING WEIRD?!
HEE HEE HEE HEE... KKK...
PUFFF
Tell me what's going on!
SHAKE
SHAKE
AH... NO I'M SORRY (HEE HEE)
I DON'T REALLY UN-DERSTAND IT, BUT...
WELL, IT DOESN'T MATTER.


When did he...?!
?!
IT WAS TOTALLY EMPTY A MINUTE AGO!
GOT STUFF INSIDE FOR ME.
IT'S STILL...
CLOP
I said don't!
TODAY I GOT SOME CHICKEN!
DON'T PULL MY LEG LIKE THIS!
HEY,
ANYWAY, LET'S MAKE SOMETHING TO EAT.
WAS HE THAT SICK? I HAD NO IDEA.
THEY SAID THAT KID WHO'S ALWAYS SICK IN CLASS 2 DIED.
Ah.
Hot! hot! hot!



THIS SCENE IS NOT A FLASH BACK BUT CURRENT
THE BOXES IN BLACK ARE FLASH BACKS

MAYBE YOU'D FEEL BETTER IF YOU TELL ME...
IT WOULDN'T MATTER.
TALKING NEVER BROUGHT ANYBODY BACK FROM THE DEAD
THERE'S NO POINT TELLING ANYBODY ABOUT THAT KIND OF STUFF.
YOU'RE WRONG.
IT'S NOT POINTLESS.
NAO...


I bet you've never seen hands this clean in your life.
YEAH, YEAH, I WASHED 'EM SO SHUT UP
MAKI... YOU ONLY NEED—
TO SAY "YEAH" ONCE. I KNOW.
TERIYAKI BONELESS CHICKEN WINGS
YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME?
DID YOU WASH YOUR HANDS?
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO MADE IT SO I DIDN'T NEED TO COOK, NAO...
..
I DON'T WANT TO HEAR THAT FROM SOMEONE WHO CAN'T EVEN COOK.
SAME FOR YOU. SAME FOR YOU
YOU'LL NEVER MAKE A GOOD WIFE MAKI
CHOMP
THAT'S WHY I DON'T HAVE ANY CHARM AS A WOMAN

WELL, IT CAN'T BE HELPED.

I'LL TRY MY BEST TOO, OKAY?

END

Saraba, Yasashii Yuuzuri

Story 2

BY ARINAGA INE

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Antisense Scanslations

Translations/Edit by Thestripedone

Cleaning/Typesetting by Arieea

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Please make Natsume lose face.
FOR TANABATA OF MY 7TH YEAR,
I WISHED A WISH ABOUT MY TWIN BROTHER.
SFX: FLUMP
ドサッ
AND THEN, ONE DAY,
HIS FACE...
YOU...

WHAT'S UP?
?
VANISHED.
Good-by, My Sweet Crane
and Three Short Stories by Ine Arinaga
To You, With Tear-Streaked Face

HUH? PRIVATE? WHAT?
YOU GO TO THAT FANCY PRIVATE SCHOOL IN MY PLACE, OKAY?
I WANT TO GO TO A PUBLIC SCHOOL.
WOBBLE!
THIS WAS JUST LAST NIGHT.
OH.
I'M NOT GOING TO GO TO THE SAME HIGH SCHOOL AS YOU, SUMI.
?!
PLEASE MAKE HIM LOSE FACE PLEASE MAKE HIM LOSE FACE...
OKAY, SO MAYBE I'D BEEN WISHING THIS FOR A WHILE.
BUT ALL THE SAME...
Ah!
Huh?
What the..?
WHY IN THE HECK DID HE ACTU-ALLY LOSE IT?!

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT.
I MEAN, EVER SINCE WE WERE KIDS HE'S BEEN BUGGING ME, ALWAYS SAYING SUMI, SUMI.
HE'S JUST SO... CLINGY.
HUH?
NATSUME'S FACE?
CHOMP
CHOMP
I GUESS IT'S JUST... MY IMAGINATION?
I MEAN... DON'T YOU THINK HE'S, UH... CHANGED... A BIT IN DRAMA CLUB THIS MORNING?
HM... HE SEEMED PRETTY MUCH NORMAL TO ME.
HIS... FACE?
IT WAS AS HANDSOME AS ALWAYS!
...
WHAT DID YOU SAY?

SOMETHING'S WRONG WITH MY FACE?
IT'S...
TOTALLY NOT MY IMAGINATION!
BU-BUMP
BU-BUMP
BU-BUMP
I BROUGHT THE FLIERS FOR OUR PERFORMANCE AT THE CULTURAL FESTIVAL
WOW, YOU'RE GOING TO BE THE LEAD CHARACTER, NATSUME? A PRINCE?!
SHUFFLE
SHUFFLE
GLANCE
"THE PRINCE AND THE PAUPER"?
NEAT,
IT'S ABOUT A PRINCE WHO SWITCHES PLACE WITH A BOY WHO LOOKS JUST LIKE HIM.
STARE
SINCE IT'S THE LAST DAY OF MIDDLE SCHOOL, MAKE SURE YOU COME SEE IT.

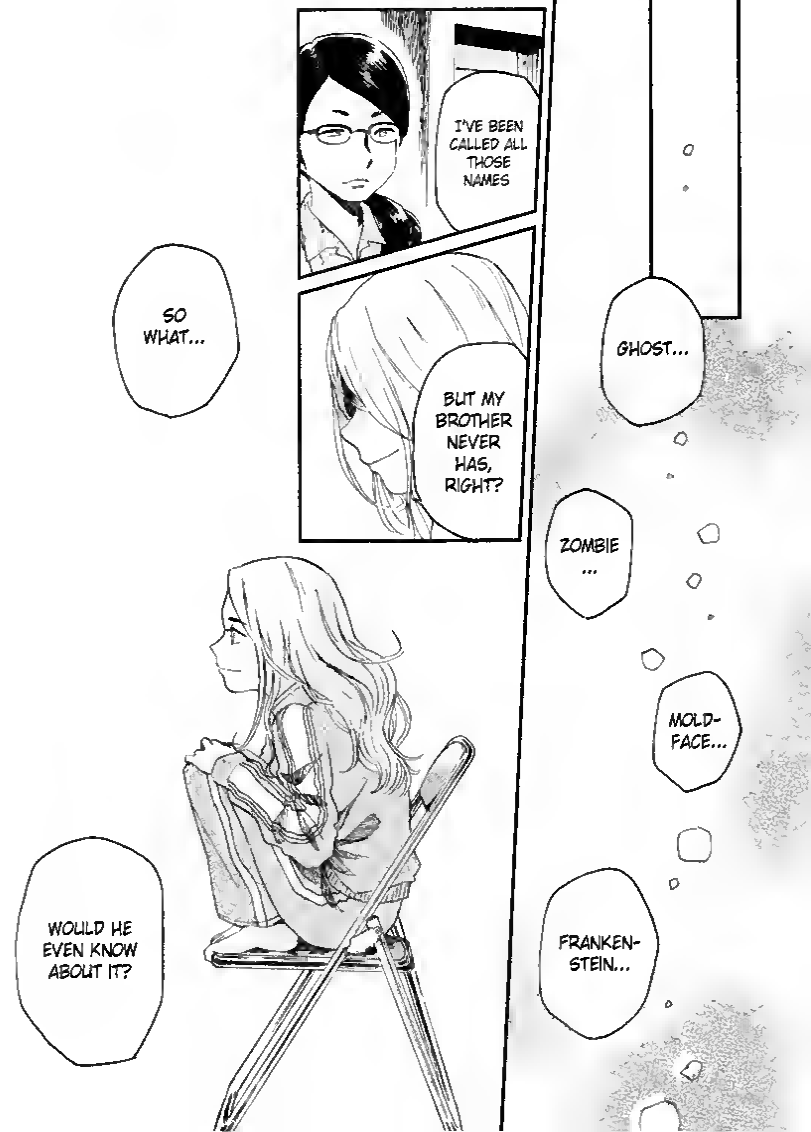
THE HELL IS GOING ON HERE?
DID YOU PICK A HIGH SCHOOL, NATSUME?
ANGLE 1
FLASH
MAYBE SOME-WHERE FAR AWAY
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO THE SAME SCHOOL AS YOUR TWIN?
ANGLE 2
FLASH
I'M AN IDIOT. THERE'S NO WAY I COULD GET INTO THE SAME SCHOOL AS HER.
ANGLE 3
Ha ha ha!
FLASH
NO MATTER HOW I LOOK AT HIM, HE HAS NO FACE.
AND EVERY-ONE ELSE SEEMS TO-TALLY FINE WITH IT
WHAT...
FLUSH

LOOM
IS THIS A DREAM? SOME KIND OF HAUNTING? PTSD? MAYBE SOME KIND OF VISION PROBLEM ..?
BODY
WHAT'S UP? YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'VE SEEN A GHOST.
HEY, SO THE PLAY! MAKE SURE YOU COME TOO, OKAY,
NOO... HAHA... HA...
SUMI.
POP
I KNOW YOU SAID YOU DON'T WANT TO BUT I'VE BEEN WORKING SUPER HARD
...?
GAH!
?
AM I THE ONLY ONE...
WHO CAN'T SEE IT?
Ha ha ha! Don't fall for me. ☆
As if
Gonna be a prince huh? That suits you
SFX FLINCH

I WISH TO LEAVE THE PALACE, SO PLEASE EXCHANGE PLACES WITH ME.
AND...
WE HAVE THE SAME FACE
YOU AND I HAVE THE SAME HAIR THE SAME EYES
HEY, MOM... DOESN'T HIS FACE SEEM A BIT WEIRD TODAY?
HMM? IT LOOKS NORMAL TO ME
YOU HAVEN'T BEEN MAKING SILLY WISHES ABOUT HIM "LOSING FACE" AGAIN, HAVE YOU?
UH, NO?!
Such an uncivilized soldier as you
I GUESS BECAUSE THE FESTIVAL'S COMING UP.
HE SURE IS PRACTICING A LOT.
YOU KNOW HE ALWAYS WORRIES ABOUT YOU.
"WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?"
HONESTLY... STOP SAYING THAT KIND OF THING ABOUT HIM
AH, SO THAT'S WHY HE'S GOING TO A DIFFERENT HIGH SCHOOL?
HOW NICE IT WILL BE FOR HIM TO FINALLY BE FREE OF MY PROBLEMS
SCRAPE
NOW LISTEN... WHEN HAS HE EVER SAID ANYTHING ABOUT YOUR F—
STOP IT.
YOU'RE ALWAYS MAKING IT SOUND LIKE THINGS ARE MY FAULT.
Ahh.

ARE YOU PLANNING...
TO HIDE YOUR BIRTHMARK FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE?
FLAP
IS THAT A BAD THING?
WHAT'S WRONG WITH WISHING UNHAPPINESS ON MY BROTHER?
EVERY SINCE WE WERE SMALL, HE'S ALWAYS HAD EVERYTHING.
CHIRP
CHIRP
CHIRP

NO WAY. I SUDDENLY FEEL VERY SICK.
YOU CAN GO BACK TO P.E.
WELL, YOU'RE IN GOOD HEALTH LIKE ALWAYS
CLICK
36.5 DEGREES °C...
TEXT BOOK HYGEINE AND YOU
NATSUME?
AND BECAUSE YOU KEEP COMING HERE, YOUR BROTHER GETS WORRIED AND COMES TOO
LISTEN, YOU'RE NOT GOING TO WIN ANY PRIZES FOR PERFECT ATTENDANCE IN THE NURSE'S OFFICE.
HOSHINO, YOU CAN'T REALLY INTEND TO KEEP USING YOUR DOCTOR'S PERMISSION TO SKIP P.E. FROM 3 YEARS AGO.
I DON'T WANT TO TIE MY HAIR BACK.
ASKING "WAS SUMIRE REALLY OKAY TODAY?"... HE'S SO CARING, HONESTLY.


I'VE BEEN CALLED ALL THOSE NAMES
BUT MY BROTHER NEVER HAS, RIGHT?
SO WHAT...
GHOST...
ZOMBIE ...
MOLD-FACE...
FRANKEN-STEIN...
WOULD HE EVEN KNOW ABOUT IT?

EVEN THOUGH WE WERE BORN TOGETHER,
HE'S NEVER HAD TO DEAL WITH THIS BIRTHMARK PEOPLE LIKE HIM
HOSHINO...
CLATTER
DO YOU THINK A PERSON LIKE THAT COULD REALLY UNDERSTAND WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE ME?
?
IT'S LIKE...
TRUNDLE
SPIN
IT WOULD'VE BEEN BETTER...
NEVER TO HAVE BEEN BORN A TWIN.
PEOPLE LIKE HIM...
SHOULD HAVE TO BE UNHAPPY SOMETIMES.
JUST HOW LONG ARE YOU GOING TO HANG OUT IN HERE?
IT'S NOT GOING TO MAKE YOUR BIRTHMARK DISAPPEAR, YOU KNOW!

Hard to believe it's just painted on cloth.
IT'S QUITE IMPRESSIVE
THIS IS HOW FAR THEY'VE GOTTEN ON THE BACK-DROP FOR THE PLAY
HMM...
UNTIL THE BELL FOR NEXT PERIOD SOUNDS.
I GUESS...
EVERYBODY SHOULD KNOW HOW TEARS TASTE.
HOW HE DOESN'T KNOW WHY HE WAS BORN DIFFER-ENTLY.
THAT HE WISHES HE COULD LOOK LIKE YOU.
NATSUME IS ALWAYS SAYING...
WHAT?
EVERYONE ELSE FEELS EXCITED TOO, YOU KNOW?
WELL, I GUESS IT'S BECAUSE NATSUME'S SO FIRED UP, ALWAYS TALKING ABOUT HOW HE WANTS YOU TO SEE THE PLAY
IT'S BECAUSE YOU'VE NEVER ONCE COME TO A SCHOOL FES-TIVAL BEFORE, SUMIRE
HE WAS THE ONE WHO SUGGESTED WE DO "THE PRINCE AND THE PAUPER," TOO.
AN...
AN IDIOT LIKE HIM WOULD SAY THAT ALL THE TIME.
HE'S JUST BEING PRIDEFUL.
So what?

THE PRINCE AND THE BOY FROM THE VILLAGE
CHANGE CLOTHES AND SWITCH PLACES.
THEY DECIDE TO LIVE THE OTHER'S LIFESTYLE COMPLETELY, WITHOUT RESERVATION.
NATSUME CHOSE IT, LIKE I SAID.
HE STUDIED THE SCRIPT EVERY DAY, EVEN THOUGH HE SUCKS AT READING.
HE SAID IT'S BECAUSE...
HE WANTED TO SHOW YOU THE ENDING, SUMI.
YOU HAVE THE SAME HAIR AS ME.
THE SAME EYES.
AND THE SAME FACE, AS WELL.

WERE WE TO CHANGE CLOTHES,
NO ONE WOULD KNOW WHICH OF US WAS THE PRINCE.
SEEING YOU IN SUCH A POOR STATE AS THIS, I AM STRUCK WITH A NEED ...
TO BE ABLE TO EXPERI-ENCE YOUR SITUATION.
TO KNOW YOUR PAIN.
NO MATTER HOW MUCH I WISH IT,
EVERYONE ELSE WILL ALWAYS SEE MY BROTHER'S FACE.

HEY, YOU HAVE A SISTER, RIGHT?
YEAH WE DON'T GET ALONG AT ALL
I MEAN, SHE'S INTO THE "GAL" SUBCULTURE AND SHE ALWAYS MAKES FUN OF ME FOR BEING INTO DRAMA.
UM...
WHAT... IF...
WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF YOU MADE A WISH FOR HER TO DISAPPEAR AND SHE REALLY DID?
WHAT IS THIS, SOME KIND OF GHOST STORY?
WELL, SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
Hmmm
WELL, I'D BE QUITE SURPRISED, OF COURSE
BUT...
AND AFTER THAT, I'D PROBABLY BE SUPER HAPPY SHE COULDN'T BUG ME ANY MORE
I THINK IN THE END I'D JUST FEEL REALLY LONELY.
I'M ALWAYS GOING TO BE THE ONE LEFT BEHIND.

LONELY²
ONE TIME, WHEN I WAS A KID, MY SISTER SAVED ME FROM DROWNING.
I'M SURE I'D REMEMBER THAT...
AND BE REALLY REALLY LONELY.
SUMIRE?
AH.
I...
ISN'T IT TOO BRIGHT, SUMI?
HERE, TAKE MY CAP.
I'M SORRY THAT I'M ALWAYS SO SLOW TO NOTICE THINGS
POOF

I... I KNOW I'M AN IDIOT I NEVER NOTICE STUFF
I'M SORRY FOR ALWAYS BOTHERING YOU
HEY... DON'T YOU THINK THAT'S MY FAULT?
HUH?
CLENCH!
THINKING THAT INSTEAD OF YOU BEING AN IDIOT, I'M JUST BEING UNREASONABLE...
SURELY YOU'VE THOUGHT THAT AT LEAST ONCE?
SURELY YOU MUST'VE THOUGHT THAT ALL THIS...
HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU?
WHAT...
YEAH.
I HAVE.
IF...
I SAID THAT, WHAT WOULD YOU DO?
SUMI!
SFX: RUSTLE

ARE YOU OKAY?
AT THE FESTIVAL...
THEY SAID MY BIRTHMARK WAS CONTAGIOUS.
THAT I'D ALWAYS BE ALONE...
...
HERE, SUMI...
YOU CAN HAVE MINE, OKAY?
SFX RUSTLE
MY BROTHER...
IT'S STILL CLEAN, OKAY?
IS TOO KIND.
...IT.

I DON'T WANT IT.
I DON'T NEED SOMEONE WHO HAS *EVERY-THING*...
TO GIVE ME STUFF LIKE *THAT*!
I ALWAYS... THOUGHT...
SUMI!

NOW HE'S ABANDONING ME TOO
A SCHOOL IN ANOTHER PROVINCE HUH
IF I THINK ABOUT IT, HE WAS ALWAYS GIVING ME STUFF.
HA EVEN THE PHOTO'S MISSING IT
THAT KINDNESS WAS JUST A FORM OF PRIVILEGE.
FLUMP
CLENCH
"I'M SURE IN THE END I'D FEEL LONELY."
I...
I...
RUB
DON'T WANT TO SEE ANYBODY'S FACES ANY MORE.
WONDER WHAT I CAN DO.
LET'S BEGIN OUR MEETING.

SFX: RUSTLE
?
BUT...
IT'S PRETTY WINDY, SO PLEASE BE EXTRA CAREFUL WHEN YOU'RE OUTSIDE
OKAY!
OKAY!
SINCE TOMORROW IS OUR PERFORMANCE AT THE CULTURAL FESTIVAL, WE'LL NEED EVERYBODY'S HELP CARRYING PROPS AND THINGS TO THE GYMNASIUM.
OKAY,
YOU CAN TAKE MINE FOR ME, OKAY SUMI?
HUP
Ah.
AH!
WHY IS SUMI HERE?
JUST UH... TO HELP A LITTLE?!
UM, NATSUME...
ゴゴゴゴゴ

I'M FINE...
ANY-WAY,
ARE YOU SURE I SHOULDN'T BE...
THAT LOOKS LIKE A PAIN...
FLUMP
Uh-
I MEAN... YOU HAVE THE BACK-DROP, TOO...
SHOULDN'T YOU CARRY THEM ONE AT A TIME...?
THIS IS ONE OF THOSE THINGS FOR "PEOPLE WHO HAVE EVERYTHING."
THERE'S NO NEED FOR YOU TO OVERDO IT.
...
HE'S ALWAYS PUTTING HIMSELF DOWN.
DON'T YOU HAVE ANY DESIRES AT ALL?
LIKE... THINGS YOU WANT TO DO, OR...
I MEAN... YOU MUST HAVE SOME-THING.
THERE MUST BE SOMETHING I CAN DO...
SOME WISH THAT YOU WANT TO COME TRUE?
I DO.

THERE'S SOME-THING...
I'M ALWAYS WISHING FOR, SUMI.
"GIVE ME SUMI'S FACE...
...AND EXCHANGE IT WITH MINE."
DO YOU THINK...
IT WILL EVER HAPPEN?
SFX: RUSTLE

SFX FWOOOOM
SFX RUSTLE

HAVE ALWAYS BEEN HELD BACK BY ME.
NATSUME'S DESIRES...
HE'S CONTINUED TO STOP HIMSELF SUCCEEDING.
BECAUSE I WANTED HIM TO LOSE FACE.
YOU THINK WE COULD USE THE CINDERELLA ONE FROM THE YEAR BEFORE LAST?
BUT THAT DOESN'T HAVE A SUIT OF ARMOUR IN IT...
WELL, WHAT IF WE JUST DO IT LIKE MIMES, WITHOUT ANY BACKDROP...?
WE CAN'T USE IT AT ALL.
AW CRAP. WE DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ELSE, EITHER.
AH... IT'S TOTALLY TRASHED.
CAN'T WE STICK IT BACK TOGETHER?
EVEN IF WE DID IT WOULD BE ALL CRUMPLED.

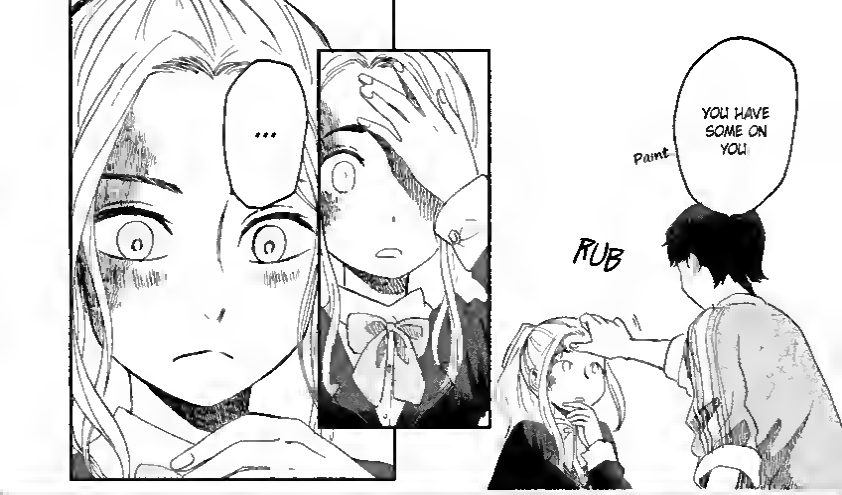
THEN I GUESS
WE'LL JUST HAVE TO PAINT A NEW ONE
SILENCE
MIMING ISN'T SOMETHING WE COULD PICK UP IN JUST A DAY
HEY..
BUT NATSUME, YOU CAN'T DO THAT BY YOURSE—
I'LL WORK ON THE BACKDROP FOR YOU, SINCE I TRASHED IT
AGAIN...
MAKE SURE YOU ALL WORK HARD AT YOUR REHEARSALS, EVERYONE
YEAH... IT CAN'T BE HELPED
NATSUME
HE'S PUTTING HIMSELF IN SECOND PLACE AGAIN. LIKE ALWAYS.
SFX RUSTLE
IT'S FINE. SINCE IT NEEDS TO BE REDONE.
I'LL BE FINE BY MYSELF.

LET ME...
PAINT IT.
PAINT...?
THEN...
I HAVEN'T, BUT...!
SFX FWIP
SFX TUG
OF COURSE I NEVER HAVE!
THE SCENERY? HAVE YOU EVER PAINTED THAT KIND OF THING BEFORE?
FWOOOOO
FLAP
What
SHE LOOKS LIKE SOME KIND OF MONSTER.
IT'S THIS STUPID WIND!
FLUTTER
FLUTTER
FLUTTER
FLUTTER

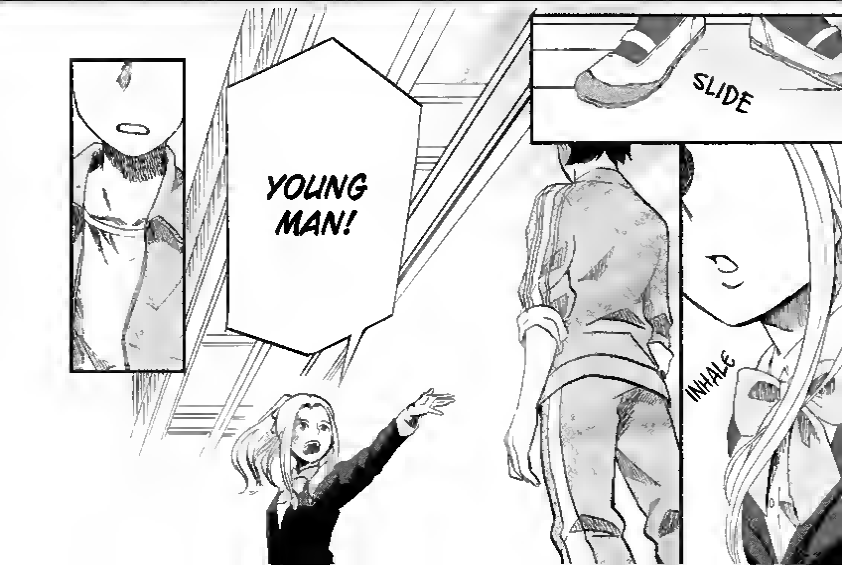
SFX TUG
キュ
MORE THAN JUST REPLACING IT,
I WANT *YOU* TO BE HAPPY.

"GIVE ME SUMI'S FACE, AND EXCHANGE IT WITH MINE."
AND I DON'T WANT YOU TO BE MAKING THAT KIND OF WISH.
AND STOP TELLING EVERYONE YOU'RE AN IDIOT ALL THE TIME, TOO
SUMI... YOUR HAIR...
S...
FIDGET FIDGET
WHAT?
IF I'M GOING TO PAINT, I NEED TO HAVE IT UP, RIGHT?
!
THINKING THAT YOU'RE LIKE THAT JUST BECAUSE OF MY FACE
I HATE IT MORE THAN ANYTHING
BIRTHMARK
WHISPER
FLINCH
FIRST I HAVE TO FREE MYSELF.
DON'T MAKE YOURSELF ALL BORING BY USING UP YOUR WISHES ON OTHERS.
WISHES ARE...
IN ORDER TO FREE MY BROTHER,
SOMETHING YOU SHOULD MAKE FOR YOURSELF
I WANT TO PAINT IT.

YOUR PAINTING IS TERRIBLE, SUMI.
TO BE HONEST,
BLEEGH
HEH.
HA HA...
BUT IT REALLY IS AWFUL, THIS...
DON'T YOU THINK THAT'S WHAT EVERYBODY THOUGHT ABOUT YOUR ACTING TOO?
!
IF YOU'RE EMBARRASSED, DO YOU WANT SOMEONE TO TAKE YOUR PLACE?
THAT'S EVEN WORSE!

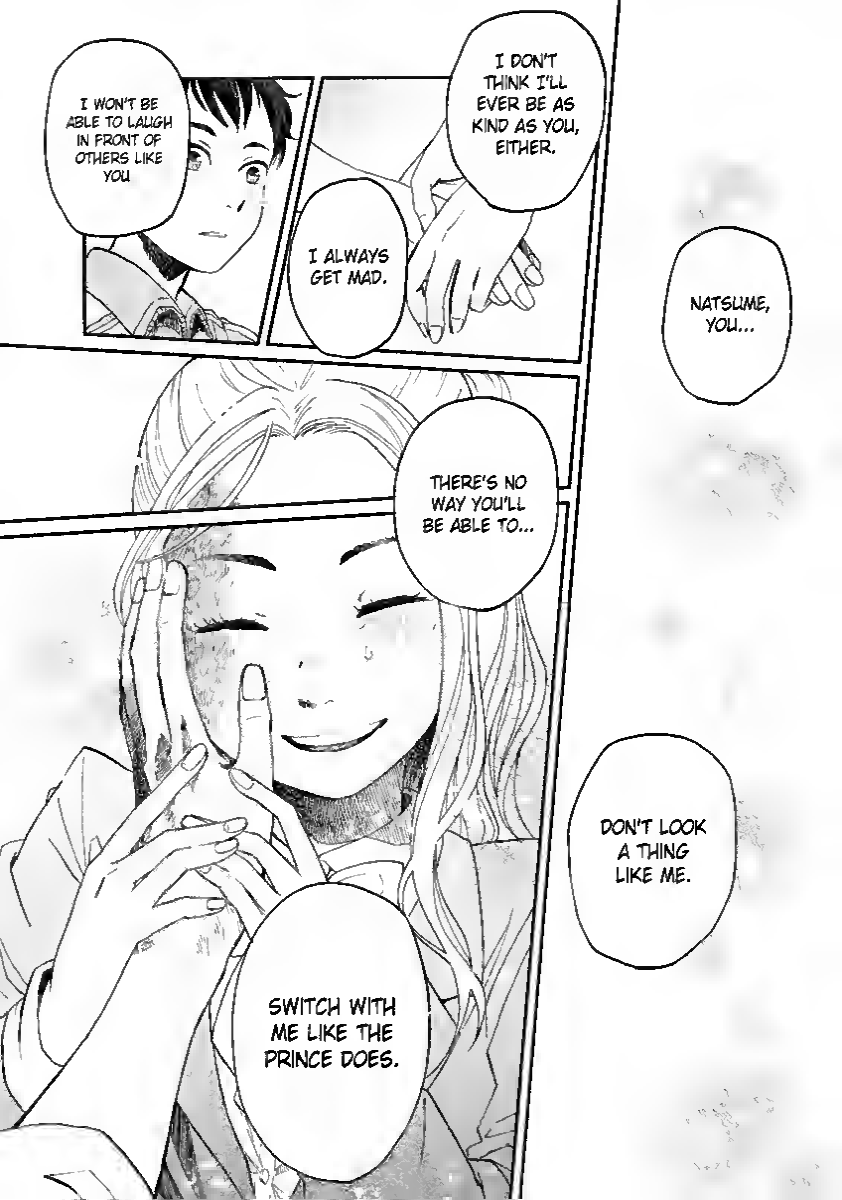


"I'M SORRY FOR NEVER NOTICING."



YOU HAVE...
THE SAME HAIR AS ME.
"I'M FINE BY MYSELF."
THE SAME EYES.
AND...

YOU HAVE THE SAME FACE AS ME.


I WON'T BE ABLE TO LAUGH IN FRONT OF OTHERS LIKE YOU
I ALWAYS GET MAD.
I DON'T THINK I'LL EVER BE AS KIND AS YOU, EITHER.
NATSUME, YOU...
THERE'S NO WAY YOU'LL BE ABLE TO...
DON'T LOOK A THING LIKE ME.
SWITCH WITH ME LIKE THE PRINCE DOES.

?
DO YOU WANT TO SEE MY FACE EVERY DAY?
IF WE SWITCHED FACES FOR REAL, I'D NEVER GET TO SEE YOUR FACE.
I'd always see my own face... Creepy
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT
BECAUSE IT'S YOURS. I LIKE IT.
IT'S... GOOD.
YEAH. I LIKE YOUR FACE.
THANKS, NATSUME.
THAT EVENING,
WE BEGAN TO MAKE OUR OWN WISHES FOR THE FIRST TIME
End

Saraba, Yasashii Yuuzuri

Story 3

BY ARINAGA INE

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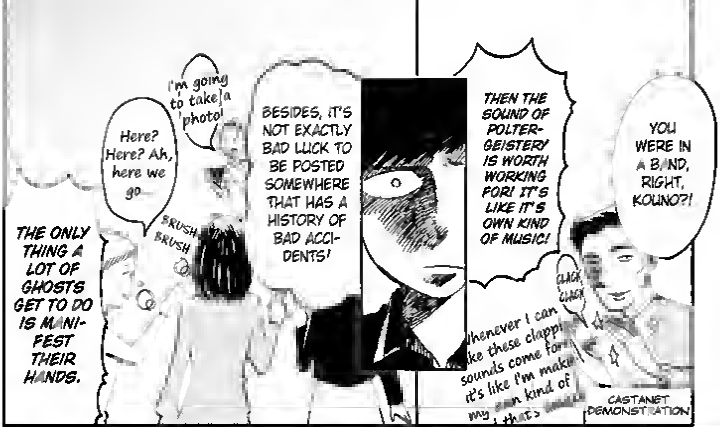
STRANGE URBAN LEGENDS,
CRASH-
CLATTER
"YOU UNDERSTAND NOW, RIGHT.?"
EEEEK!
GHOSTLY KNOCKING SOUNDS
AND GHOST PHOTOGRAPHY.
I'D HEARD OF THESE PSYCHIC PHENOMENA BEFORE, BUT...
FLASH
HELLO THERE, KOUNO.
I'LL TEACH YOU ONE GOOD THING, SINCE YOU'VE DIED.
YOU CAN FORGET THOSE OBSCURE LEGENDS ABOUT PSYCHIC PHENOMENA.
THEY'RE TOTALLY ILLOGICAL GARBAGE, AND DON'T EXIST AT ALL!
WHAT REALLY EXISTS...

Story by Ally Sweet Cone
and Three Short Stories by Eita Arinaga
Working Ghouls

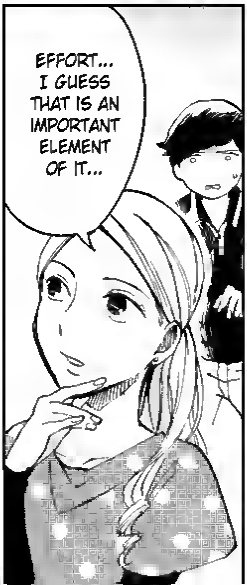
?!
IS THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY, "WORKING GHOUL"!
COMPANY PRECEPT #1: THERE ARE NO "PSYCHIC PHENOMENA." INSTEAD, THERE ARE PROFESSIONAL POLTERGEISTS- US.

"SADAKO" - THE GIRL WHO CREATES THE CURSED VIDEO TAPES IN THE "RING" SERIES OF MOVIES
SHE WAS JUST A PERSON WHO LIKED LIVING DOWN A WELL.
EVEN SADAKO*?
GHOSTS ARE JUST HALLUCINATIONS AND TRICKS OF THE BRAIN. IN OTHER WORDS, THEY'RE YOUR IMAGINATION
WELL, POPS...
MEOW MEOW
YOU UNDERSTAND, TAKAMASA?
SIGH
GOT THIS ONE WRONG.
LOOKS LIKE EVEN YOU, WITH YOUR FANCY EDUCATION,
NOBODY'S COMING...
YOUR OWN SON IS NOW TRYING HIS HARDEST...
AS A PROFESSIONAL GHOST.
ZZZZZZ

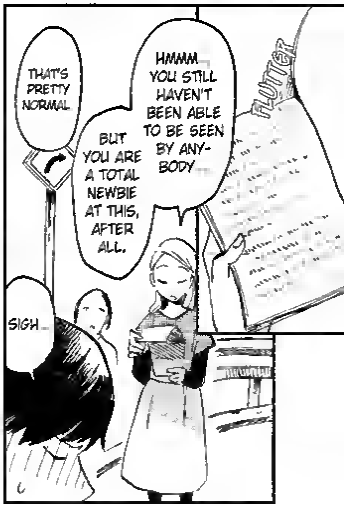
SFX WHOOOOOOO
(MOUNTAIN ECHO)
HERE
ウオヨオオオオ
"STAR OF THE SUDDEN MOUNTAIN CURVE HAUNTING," MY BUTT!
I AIN'T EVEN SEEN FIVE CARS IN THREE DAYS!
EVERYBODY WHO ENTERS THE COMPANY HAS TO START OUT HERE!
CHEER UP, NEWBIE!
FWOOSH
"ENTERS THE COMPANY—"
UH, I JUST DIED 5 DAYS AGO, SO I'M NOT REALLY GOING TO GET EXCITED ABOUT STUFF LIKE THAT...
SPARKLE
IT'S JUST PERFECT FOR A HAUNTING, RIGHT?!
YOU CAN JUST FEEL THE REPEATED TRAGIC ACCIDENTS HERE, CAN'T YOU?!
PRESIDENT KAMIZONO YUIKA.
IT'S ESSENTIAL THAT YOU GRASP THE FUNDAMENTALS, KOUNO!
MANAGES EVERYTHING. (ALIVE.)
KOUNO YOU'LL GIVE IT A TRY, RIGHT?
ONCE YOU'VE COMPLETED YOUR TRAINING HERE, IT'LL BE LIKE... YOU'LL HAVE A GHOSTLY REVELATION... OR SOMETHING?
PAT
ISN'T THAT RIGHT, AREA MANAGER?!
THAT'S RIGHT, PRESIDENT!
SPIRITS WITH WEAK POWER RANKINGS CAN USE THE POWER OF "GHOSTLY REVELATION" TO GO FROM BEING COWARDS TO MAGNIFICENT TACTICIANS!
Yeaaaah!


I'm going to take a photo!
Here? Here? Ah, here we go...
BRUSH BRUSH
THE ONLY THING A LOT OF GHOSTS GET TO DO IS MANIFEST THEIR HANDS.
BESIDES, IT'S NOT EXACTLY BAD LUCK TO BE POSTED SOMEWHERE THAT HAS A HISTORY OF BAD ACCIDENTS!
THEN THE SOUND OF POLTERGEISTERY IS WORTH WORKING FOR! IT'S LIKE IT'S OWN KIND OF MUSIC!
YOU WERE IN A BAND, RIGHT, KOUNO?!
CLACK CLACK
Whenever I can make these clapping sounds come from me, it's like I'm making some kind of music!
CASTANET DEMONSTRATION

(HE'S ALREADY DEAD)
PLEASE JUST KILL ME ALREADY.


EFFORT... I GUESS THAT IS AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT OF IT...

LOOK, I SAID THIS ALREADY, BUT I DON'T WANT TO DO THIS.
PUTTING IN THE EFFORT TO OVERCOME HARDSHIPS AFTER I'VE DIED...
IT'S SUCH A PAIN


THAT'S PRETTY NORMAL
HMMM... YOU STILL HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO BE SEEN BY ANYBODY...
BUT YOU ARE A TOTAL NEWBIE AT THIS, AFTER ALL.
SIGH...
FLUTTER

SFX WHOOOOOO
YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO TRANSFER ANY SORT OF MEANING IF YOU CAN'T APPEAR.
IT'LL DO YOU NO GOOD IF YOU CAN'T APPEAR AND STARTLE PEOPLE.
BUT THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS "MEANING."
THE FIRST THING YOU MUST LEARN IS TO APPEAR BEFORE PEOPLE
HUH...?
...
NOBODY'S EVER GOING TO SEE ME... AND I CAN'T EVEN TOUCH ANYTHING
MEOW
I CAN'T EVEN TOUCH THIS CAT THAT KEEPS HANGING AROUND OR THIS PILE OF GARBAGE
Everyone just passes me by...
THERE AREN'T ANY CARS COMING AT ALLLLLL.
ズ・・・ン
IN FIVE DAYS, ONLY SIX CARS PASSED BY.
SUDDEN CURVE AHEAD
SFX POOOOOM

EXCUSE ME
I MAY AS WELL NOT EXIST.
IN A WAY, YOU'RE RIGHT, POPS...
"GHOSTS ARE NOTHING BUT ILLUSIONS"
OH, KOUNO DID SOME-THING HAPPEN?
WELL...
THIS KIND OF WORK DOESN'T REALLY HAVE ANY MEANING AT ALL
I'D... RATHER NOT DO IT, TO BE HONEST.
I MEAN, IF YOU HAVE A HAUNTING BUSINESS, YOU SHOULD DO IT SOMEWHERE THERE ARE PEOPLE AROUND, RIGHT?
IF I'M NOT MANI-FESTING, IS THAT EVEN WORK?
YOU THINK SO?
OF COURSE!
IN OTHER WORDS... YOU WANT TO WORK SOMEWHERE WITH A WHOLE LOT OF PEOPLE, INSTEAD?
I SEE. IN THAT CASE...

YOU MAY AS WELL QUIT.
HUH?!
WHEN IT COMES TO GHOSTS LIKE YOU WHO SAY THEY'LL QUIT,
NONE OF THEM WERE EVER ABLE TO FIND SOMETHING THEY WANTED TO HAVE DONE
Here's the shift log
I DON'T REALLY UNDER-STAND THAT KIND OF THING.
I MEAN, I WAS A MUSICIAN
TO PUT IT BLUNTLY, I'M THE TYPE OF PERSON WHO'S BURSTING WITH INDIVIDUALITY.
?!
WHAM!
CAN'T YOU COME UP WITH A MORE CREATIVE—
HOW IS SHE TOUCHING ME?
ONE PERSON...
キリキリ…
SFX SHIVER

SOMEONE WHO HASN'T TOUCHED ANYBODY SHOULDN'T SAY "THIS ISN'T IT" SO EASILY.
IF YOU CAN DO THAT JUST ONCE AND SAY "THIS WASN'T IT," IT'S A DIFFERENT STORY.
KILL ME.
GRIND
GRIND
KOUNO!
COMPANY PRECEPT #2: GHOSTS CAN'T DIE. BUT PLEASE, GO AHEAD AND TRY.
PLEEEEEASE JUST KILL ME!

KOUNO! DID YOU HEAR? DID YOU HEAR?!
GLITTER
AREA MANAGER... WHAT IS IT?
HE'S AS GHOSTLY-LOOKING AS EVER.
WE GOT SOME TV WORK!
SERIOUSLY?!
IS IT MUSIC?! A VARIETY SHOW?! OR A DRAMA?!
IT'S A GHOST HUNTING SHOW!
FLAP
STOMP
KOUNO... I'M SO EXCITED.
I'VE BEEN A GHOST TEN YEARS NOW, AND THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE HAD THIS OPPORTUNITY.
ROLL
Ooooh...
AS A MEMBER OF THE "NO-PRESSURE GENERATION", I'M DONE WITH THIS ALREADY.
BUT IT SAYS THEY'RE GOING TO HAVE SOMEONE IN THE STUDIO WHO'S A NEUROSCIENTIST AND DOESN'T BELIEVE IN THE OCCULT.
GLANCE
ACCORDING TO THE LISTING IT'S, UH...
FLUTTER
光野正文
SOME GUY CALLED MITSUNO MASAFUMI?
DON'T YOU THINK THESE OCCULT-DENIERS WILL BE TOTALLY SPEECHLESS IF WE APPEAR BEFORE THEM?
HUH, KOUNO?
MELT
THAT NAME...

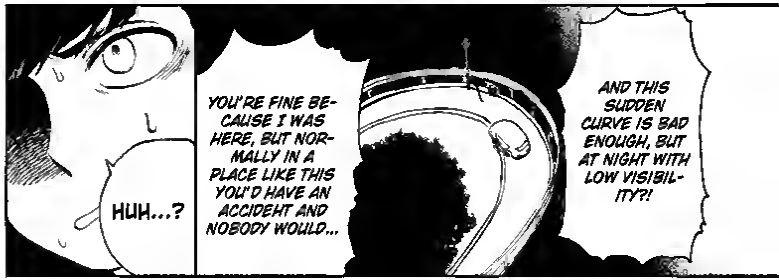
"NO-PRESSURE GENERATION" REFERS TO STUDENTS TAUGHT UNDER A SET OF GUIDELINES DESIGNED TO REDUCE STRESS ON THEM.

YOU DON'T READ IT "MITSUNO." YOU READ IT "KOUNO."
BLINK
HUH?
WHAT?
...
NOTHING BUT THIS PIPE AND GARBAGE AGAIN TODAY...
SCREE
SCREE
SCREE
HUH?

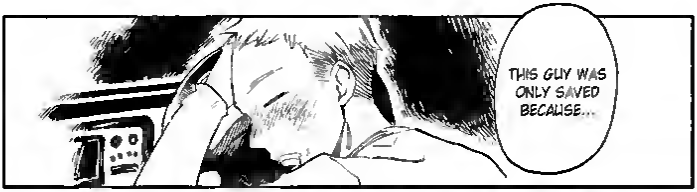
STO-
OOP!
YOU SHOULDN'T BE FALLING ASLEEP!
HEY HEY HEY,
IT'S GONNA SMASH STRAIGHT INTO THE GUARDRAIL!
CLATTER
CLATTER
SCREEEEE
HUH?!
WHAT'S WITH THAT CAR?
CLATTER
HE CAN'T HEAR ME!
SHIT.
SLIDE
I'M TOUCHING IT!
CLATTER
THE PIPE...
GRIP

SFX SCREEEEEEEEEEEEEEE
THIS IS DANGER-OUS!
YOU GOTTA STOOOP!
GASP
SLAM
キキキキキキキ
SFX SCREEEEEEEEE

ARE YOU A TOTAL IDIOT?! IF YOU DRINK AND DRIVE, YOU'RE GONNA DIE! YOU WOULD'VE DIED IF I WASN'T HERE!
HEY, DO YOU HEAR ME, YOU MORON?! DAMN IT! I CAN'T EVEN TOUCH HIM!
WHOOSH
WHOOSH
FWOOSH
SILENCE
BEER . ?


HUH...?
YOU'RE FINE BECAUSE I WAS HERE, BUT NORMALLY IN A PLACE LIKE THIS YOU'D HAVE AN ACCIDENT AND NOBODY WOULD...
AND THIS SUDDEN CURVE IS BAD ENOUGH, BUT AT NIGHT WITH LOW VISIBILITY?!

"A HAUNTING AT A PLACE WHERE THERE ARE LOTS OF ACCIDENTS ISN'T A BAD THING."
"YOU CAN JUST FEEL THE REPEATED TRAGIC ACCIDENTS HERE, CAN'T YOU?!"


THIS GUY WAS ONLY SAVED BECAUSE...

I'M HERE?

OH.
YOU MEAN I DIDN'T TELL YOU?

SFX THRUST
KOUNO... RIGHT NOW YOU MUST BE THINKING "WHAT A WONDERFUL DUTY. I WANT TO WORK HARD AND EARN THE TRUST OF MY BEAUTIFUL PRESIDENT AND EMBRACE HER..."
RIGHT...?
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME SHE'S EVEN MENTIONED IT!
BU-DUMP
PLEASE STOP PUTTING WORDS IN MY MOUTH
PHOTOGRAPHY IS EVIDENCE! THE SOUNDS OF A POLTERGEIST ARE A WARNING! OUR CUSTOMERS' SAFETY IS PRIORITY NUMBER ONE!
THE CORE DUTIES OF OUR CORPORATION ARE "MONITORING" AND ALSO "PROTECTION"!
ビリッ
Watch out!
GRAB
Geh.
STARE
Guess I should just end it
SFX GAAAAH
KOUNO TAKAMASA 21 YEARS OLD. A THIRD-YEAR COLLEGE STUDENT. MEMBER OF A TRULY TERRIBLE BAND.
!
CAUSE OF DEATH. WALKING HOME FROM A GAME OF MAHJONG WHILE SKIPPING CLASS.
FLAP
ANYWAY, TRASH LIKE THAT GUY DESERVE TO DIE!
JUMPED OUT INTO THE ROAD TO SAVE YOUR CAT MIMI FROM A TRUCK AND DIED IMMEDIATELY.
WH... WHY ALL OF A SUDDEN...?
BUT.

BUT IT WAS ACTUALLY JUST A STUFFED ANIMAL NOT MIMI
YOU DIED FOR NO REASON AT ALL. HUH?
Heh.
YOU SHOULDN'T... LAUGH AT THE WAY SOMEONE DIED. HUH?!
Y...
SORRY, SORRY...
MY MOTHER DIED LIKE THAT TOO
LIKE THAT...?
SHE COULDN'T SWIM, BUT SHE STILL WENT INTO A RIVER TO TRY AND SAVE ME AND DIED
!
MAMA, THERE'S A CRYING GHOST IN THE RIVER
DON'T BE SILLY THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS GHOSTS
YUIKA!
THERE IS! I'M GOING TO GET HER AND BRING HER TO SEE YOU!
WAIT,
THE IRONY IS THAT I WAS ABLE TO REACH THE OTHER SIDE UNDER MY OWN POWER
MY MOTHER DIED FOR NO REASON...
THAT'S...

SO...
BRUSH
THEY BECOME WANDERING GHOSTS LIKE YOU.
PEOPLE WHO DIE WITH REGRETS— PARTICULARLY PEOPLE LIKE YOU WHO WEREN'T ABLE TO PROTECT SOMETHING WHILE DYING—
SO I THOUGHT WE SHOULD GIVE YOU SOMETHING TO PROTECT.
IT'S WEIRD, HUH?
ON TOP OF THAT, SHE DIED BECAUSE OF ME.
I WAS ALWAYS BEING CALLED A LIAR BY MY MOTHER.
IT'S MORE LIKE... I WANT TO BE ABLE TO THINK OF MYSELF AS NOT A BAD PERSON.
EVEN THOUGH I SAY I WANT TO PROTECT PEOPLE,
DON'T MAKE THAT FACE AT ME
THIS IS... I GUESS JUST ESCAPISM, HUH?
TAP
ESCAP-ISM?

IF I'D BEEN ABLE TO USE THIS POWER FROM THE BEGINNING, MAYBE EVERYBODY WOULD HAVE BEEN HAPPY
DID YOU KNOW...?
PEOPLE'S HOPES AND LOVE AND ALL THAT...
THE REALITY IS IT'S JUST NORADRENALINE AND PHENETHYLAMINE AND DOPAMINE
WE EXPERIENCE THESE INTRACRANIAL SUBSTANCES AS THOUGH WATCHING A DREAM.
HA HA.
YOU'RE MY ONLY REAL FRIEND...
POPS! YOU CAN'T LEAVE NOW!
THIS IS A CHARITY EVENT!
WHAT DO YOU THINK THIS GRATING NOISE OF YOURS COULD POSSIBLY TEACH ANYONE?
DON'T BE SO CONCEITED.

RASP
OH...
IT...
WASN'T...
MIMI...
POPS...
I'M...
GLAD...

WHAT A USELESS EXPLANATION.
YES!
AND BE ON YOUR GUARD, OF COURSE!
ONCE WE'RE INSIDE THE STUDIO, MESS AROUND A BIT.
I'LL EXPLAIN WHAT WE'RE DOING HERE AT THIS TV SHOW!
EVERYBODY LISTEN UP!
CBS
THAT'S A PREMEDITATED CRIME!
SFX. POOOOOM
Hello!
Mr Kouno Tadafumi!
you better watch out
when you're on TV! I'll
kill you! ^o^ That's
right, you're gonna
Die!
die!
BUT... WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY "ON GUARD"?
THAT'S RIGHT SOMEONE DELIVERED THIS
RUSTLE RUSTLE

THIS NEURO-SCIENTIST HAS A BIG REPUTATION AS AN ANTI-OCCULTIST
IT SEEMS LIKE HE'S EARNED THE ENMITY OF QUITE A FEW ORGANIZATIONS
ORGANI-ZATIONS?
SURE, LIKE OUR CORPORA-TION OR...
FIDGET
RIGHT...
FIDGET
THAT EX-PLAINS THAT LETTER...
BUSINESS WORLD TRUTH OCCASIONALLY, THERE ARE OCCULT EXTREM-ISTS, WHO GIVE THE REST OF US A BAD NAME.
ANYWAY!
THIS IS A LIVE BROADCAST, SO LET'S ALL BE ON THE LOOK-OUT FOR SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY!
YES!
...!

GOOD MORNING.
OH... IT'S YOU, HUH?
YOU'RE ONE OF THOSE PSYCHICS, OR WHATEVER YOU CALL YOURSELF, RIGHT?
I'M KAMIZONO. I'LL BE ON GUARD FOR YOU IN TODAY'S BROADCAST.
ON GUARD ...?
MY FATHER!

AREN'T YOU A BIT OLD TO BE INTO THE OCCULT?
THE... OCCULT?
Heh.
THAT'S RIGHT.
DO YOU THINK BENDING A SPOON WILL BRING PEACE TO THE WORLD?
DID YOU THINK MAKING A BIG FUSS ABOUT THE YEAR 1999 WOULD DESTROY IT?
PRESIDENT... IS IT OKAY IF I PUNCH THIS ASSHOLE?
GLARE
...
IT SEEMS YOU HAVE A VERY LOW OPINION OF PEOPLE LIKE US, PROFESSOR.
YOU GO AROUND TALKING AS THOUGH YOU HAVE THIS MYSTERIOUS POWER TO LET YOU BRING BACK PEOPLE WHO ARE ALREADY DEAD
OF COURSE
WE AREN'T GODS, SO OF COURSE IT'S TOTALLY IMPOSSIBLE.
THRUST
SHAKE
ISN'T THAT RIGHT?
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE, RIGHT?
YOU'RE JUST A BUNCH OF LIARS
HUH?!
IT'S NOT A LIE!
THERE'S A GHOST RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOU!
CLENCH

THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS GHOSTS.
ONCE PEOPLE DIE, THEY VANISH.
IT'S FUNNY YOU SHOULD SAY THAT, PROFESSOR

MY MOTHER SAID EXACTLY THAT AT MY FATHER'S FUNERAL.
EVEN THOUGH SHE SAID HE WAS STILL HERE AT THE FUNERAL HALL ITSELF
DEAD PEOPLE DON'T JUST VANISH.
ONCE SOMEONE DIES, YOU'RE THE ONE MAKING THEM DISAPPEAR.
YOU'RE JUST TRYING TO MAKE UP FOR YOUR SENSE OF HELPLESSNESS BY DOING IT.

I HAVE NO PARTICULAR INTEREST IN WHETHER GHOSTS EXIST OR NOT.
I JUST LET THEM BE IF THEY WANT TO, AND NOT IF THEY DON'T.
THAT'S ALL I WANTED TO SAY.
LET'S GO, KOUNO.
SFX FWISH
PRESI-DENT...
I'M READY TO WORK.

HE'S SHARP...
IT SEEMS THERE'S EVEN A BUSINESS HERE WHO CAN PUT THEM TO USE
IF THERE ARE SUCH FORTUNATE SPIRITS AROUND KIND ENOUGH TO COME OUT ON STAGE,
I WONDER IF WE MIGHT EVEN SEE A GHOST?
WELL THEN, NOW IT'S TIME FOR OUR SPIRITUAL CORNER!
Ugh...
THE HELL IS THAT?
BOOOOAHH
GI GI GI
BYOOO
BWUOOAHHH
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
NOW THEN, IT SEEMS WE HAVE A MUSICIAN WHO'S ALSO A MEDIUM! GIVE A BIG HAND TO SPIRITUAL SUGURI!
THAT MUST BE HIM!
!
BRUSH
GLANCE
GLANCE

IT'S DANGEROUS TO APPEAR BEFORE PEOPLE AND TOUCH THEM.
FSSHH
AAH?!
AN EGG?!
IT'S JUST AN EGG! WHY'S HE SHOUTING "DIE"?!
What a moron!
KOUNO MASAFUMI! DIEEEEEEEEE!
GOT IT, KOUNO?
SFX: TOSS
IF YOU DO THAT, YOU HAVE NO WAY OF KNOWING WHAT MEANING IT MIGHT CARRY FOR THAT PERSON.

THINK ABOUT IT.
IF YOU DO, YOU CAN BECOME REFLECTED IN SOMEONE'S EYES.

...?!
THE EGG... EXPLODED?!
SFX MURMUR
NO! THERE'S SOME-ONE ON THE STAGE!
TOO BAD, POPS.

NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES YOU TRIED IT SECRETLY, YOU COULDN'T BEND A SINGLE SPOON.
AND THE WORLD YOU HATE DIDN'T END IN 1999.
AND THE MONEY MOM SPENT ON ALL THOSE SELF-IMPROVEMENT SEMINARS KEPT EVAPORATING.
SCREE
SNAP
AND YOUR ONLY SON DIDN'T EVEN GET INTO TOKYO UNIVERSITY.

SNATCH
WORST OF ALL.
THE GHOSTS YOU HATE SO MUCH ACTUALLY EXIST.

SFX: SCREEE SCRAAAW
?!
WHAT'S THAT SOUND?!
IT'S SO AWFUL MY HEAD IS SCREAM-ING!
SFX: SHIVER
HEY, DO SOME-THING ABOUT THE SOUND!
CLATTER
CLATTER
CLATTER
IT MUST BE...
SOME OTHER OCCULTIST ...?
I MAY BE DEAD, BUT I'M ALIVE AND WELL, YOU SHITTY OLD MAN!
COMPANY PRECEPT #3: WHILE WORKING, COMMUNICATE ENER-GETICALLY IN A LOUD, TERRIFYING VOICE.
SFX: GGGEEEEEEEEEEEEE

PFFT...
WHAT UNMUSICAL POLTERGEIST SOUNDS...
Ha ha ha...
ギャッ
ギャギャギャ
ガガガガ
ガガガガ
SFX: SCREE SCCEREEEEE SCRRRRR EEEEEEE SCREEE JAJAJAJA JAAJAJAJA SCREEE
HOW FOOLISH.

IT'S JUST AS AWFUL AS EVER.

YOU CALL THAT MUSIC? DON'T BE RIDICULOUS.
BUT THERE WERE MUSICAL SOUNDS AND SOMETHING LIKE DANCING...
WHAT HAPPENED ON STAGE IS A TRULY BAFFLING SERIES OF EVENTS,
BUT I'M SURE THERE MUST BE SOME EXPLA-NATION.
I JUST CAN'T BE-LIEVE IN GHOSTS.
THRUST
STOMP STOMP STOMP
WELL, I MEAN, HE'S DOING FINE THOUGH!
IT'S A SHAME THAT HE DIED...
HE MUST HAVE THOUGHT HE'D TRAN-SCEND TO HEAVEN RIGHT THEN
HE'S SUCH A GOOD KID... EVEN IF NOBODY LISTENED TO HIM...
DRIP
KOUNO...
PLEASE...

PLEASE JUST KILL ME ALREADY!
わっ
SFX: GAAAAH
COME ON NOW... YOU'RE ALREADY DEAD.
Why can't I rest in peace?!
I KNOW, BUT! PLEASE... RELEASE ME FROM THE COMPANY?! FROM THIS SITUATION?!
I MEAN...
IN THE END, I DIDN'T EVEN GET FEATURED ON THE TV PROGRAM
Well, I mean, yeah, I'm dead, but—
WELL...
EVEN IF YOU'RE DEAD,
PAT
YOU PROTECTED HIM WELL.

IT'S BECAUSE YOU WERE WATCHING...
KOUNO.
I SHOULD AT LEAST TRY TO DO SOMETHING...
I THOUGHT AS LONG AS SOMEBODY WAS WATCHING,
BECAUSE YOU COULD SEE ME.
HAVE MORE SELF-CONFIDENCE!
LISTEN! WHAT I MEAN IS...
YOUR POWER IS PERFECTLY SUITED TO THIS WORK!
Can't believe you made me say that!
BECAUSE YOU WERE WATCHING,

THANKS.
I'LL DO MY BEST.
MEOOOW
WHAT, CAN'T YOU HEAR ME?
HEY, KITTY. GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN
HEY, KITTY. I HOPE IT'S QUITE AGAIN TODAY.
YOU...
MEOOOW
BUSINESS PRECEPT #4: GHOSTS SHOULD SHOW THEMSELVES BEFORE THOSE THEY WANT TO PROTECT.
End

Postscripts

Farewell My Sweet Crane (2010.10)

My fourth comic.

I think it's hard to realize what you really want. Sometimes it might even be something you think you hate or don't want.

While I was working on this, my editor whom I hadn't seen in a while suddenly asked me to do a serialization. I was sure it was a joke, but I couldn't sleep for a week.

The One-Eyes Cry on Thursday (2010.08)

I began drawing comics in February of 2010. This is my third comic ever, and the first one I ever storyboarded.

I'm sorry if the one-eyes make you creeped out. Plus they move super quickly.

After I finished, my editor wanted to buy it. I felt like a fraud and couldn't sleep for a week.

Working Ghouls (2012.03)

Not counting my serial, this is my seventh work.

After finishing my serial, I thought "Enough with the serious stuff! Let's write something with an idiotic story!"

I had to ask a friend who's in a band for lots of advice about Kouno's guitar scene. I also had to get someone to pose for the egg-throwing scene a lot as well. I didn't think it would be so hard...

To You Without a Face (2011.07)

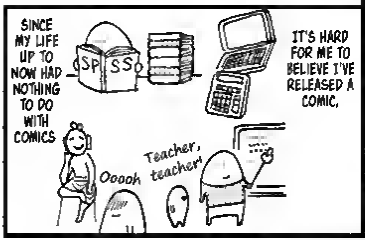
My first and sixth comic. After I drew it, it was a year and a half before it got published.

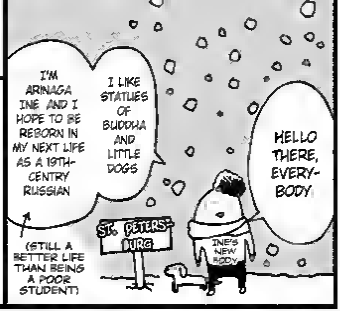
Even though I have a brother, whenever I see my friends who are twins, I always think there's something a little more mysterious about them.

The first person I showed it to said "I didn't think you'd draw something so great when you said you were making comics!" I was shocked. It was the first time I thought maybe I could keep drawing.

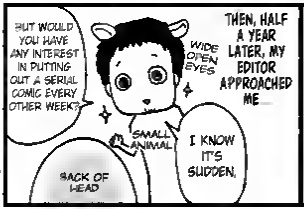
T/N: SORRY THESTRIPEDONE GOT THIS TITLE WRONG AND WE DIDN'T REALIZE IT UNTIL WE DID THIS BLURB... OOPS.

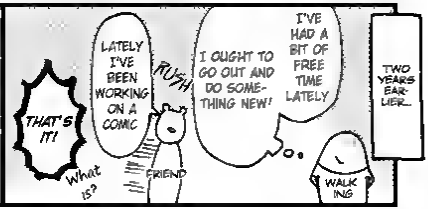
After-manga

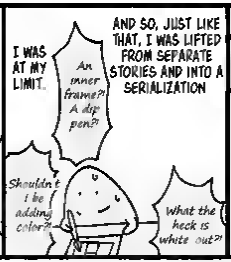

SINCE MY LIFE UP TO NOW HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH COMICS
SP
SSO
IT'S HARD FOR ME TO BELIEVE I'VE RELEASED A COMIC,
Ooooh
Teacher, teacher!

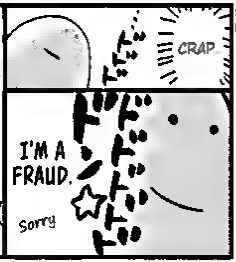

I'M ARINAGA INE AND I HOPE TO BE REBORN IN MY NEXT LIFE AS A 19TH-CENTRY RUSSIAN
(STILL A BETTER LIFE THAN BEING A POOR STUDENT)
I LIKE STATUES OF BUDDHA AND LITTLE DOGS
ST. PETERS-BURG
INE'S NEW BODY
HELLO THERE, EVERY-BODY.

First time we'd met in person.


BUT WOULD YOU HAVE ANY INTEREST IN PUTTING OUT A SERIAL COMIC EVERY OTHER WEEK?
WIDE OPEN EYES
SMALL ANIMAL
BACK OF HEAD
I KNOW IT'S SUDDEN.
THEN, HALF A YEAR LATER, MY EDITOR APPROACHED ME...




I WAS AT MY LIMIT.
An inner frame?! A dip pen?!
AND SO, JUST LIKE THAT, I WAS LIFTED FROM SEPARATE STORIES AND INTO A SERIALIZATION
Shouldn't I be adding color?
What the heck is white out?!



BUT DESPITE THESE VARI-OUS HARD-SHIPS, I'M VERY HAPPY TO HAVE PUT OUT A BOOK. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

MY EDITOR NO DOUBT THOUGHT HE WAS JUST SUPPORTING ME STRONGLY,
BUT IN TRUTH IT DIDN'T REAS-SURE ME AT ALL
So, get to work on the next story-board.
Okay

* Special Thanks *

My editor Iwama, my former boss Nakatoshi, everyone at my company, my book designer Kawatan, Furukawa, Keiko, Nakamura, my friends, my mother.

All of you who bought this book of mine!

※収録されている内容は、作品の執筆年代・執筆された状況を考慮し、
コミックス発売当時のまま掲載しています。

Saraba, Yasashii Yuuzuru

Story 4

BY ARINAGA INE

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